

# LESSON PLAN

## James Sandy

### AIM:

**Through learning a little about James Sandy, we can:**

- Consider how being creative can help us be resilient and productive.
- Learn about musical instruments and how they work.
- Play with words to describe one another.
- Use collected objects to make musical instruments, then create a piece of music

### ACTIVITIES:

#### **Dealing with Adversity.**

James Sandy lived most of his life without the use of his legs. On a piece of paper, write a list of activities that we do often that would be difficult or impossible in his situation.

Then, put your heads together. The man lived with this problem and produced amazing things. So, he must have found ways to overcome these difficulties. Working together, think how he might have worked around each problem.

#### **Learning about (some) musical instrument, how they work and the sounds they make.**

If you can, have a selection of instruments in the class, ideally featuring one or more from each category (stringed, brass, woodwind, percussion).

If you can do this, let the kids handle them and make a noise with them and get them thinking about how the sound is created. This will all be discussion – probably no real need to write anything down.

Then, listen to Peter and the Wolf by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra on youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfM7Y9Pcdzw>). This takes half an hour or so and is a nice activity by itself. We hear instruments playing together, and playing alone, picked out to do certain jobs as part of the story.

You can discuss why each instrument was chosen to be each character – what qualities do they have?

## Nicknames

A risky activity, unless you know the class very well and feel OK about this. James Sandy was nicknamed The Alyth Genius. Nice! In groups, as a class, or individually, can you come up with a nickname for each member of the class, that's complimentary!

## Making musical instruments

Ask parents/colleagues to donate things they are throwing out. You need:

- Yoghurt tubs;
- Shoe boxes;
- Wide, strong straws;
- Pringles tubes (or similar);
- Empty bottles;
- Empty glass bottles;
- Elastic bands
- Empty tin cans;
- Balloons

Use these (and other) resources to make as many weird and wonderful instruments as you can. You will find lots of ideas for inspiration on pinterest, or just let the children do what they do. Ask that they think about blowing, hitting, rubbing, twanging, scraping – all the things the musicians do with the real instruments in the orchestra.