

How to Prepare for a Bash the Trash Building Workshop

Introduction

Congratulations! Your class will be receiving a Bash the Trash (BTT) Building Workshop sometime after you receive your BTT performance.

You should have received from your Program Coordinator a Pre-show Guide, an age-appropriate (K-2; 3-8) Materials List and this prep handout. These items will prepare you and your class for the Building Workshop. Please read them carefully at least a week before the program begins.

On the materials lists are suggested materials that your students should collect prior to the BTT Building Workshop. Each student should receive a copy of the materials list to take home (possibly for parents if your students are very young). Also consider putting up a temporary poster in your room with the materials listed on it.

We have been teaching these workshops for over 25 years and during that time we have seen what works best and what doesn't. If you follow the suggestions below we can guarantee that you will have a successful workshop that will be fun and educational, not only for the students but for you. However, you know your students better than we do: If you feel that some of the suggestions below would not work for them, please email us at the address at the end of this document and we can discuss their needs.

Consider asking a parent or two to help during the workshop. A parent or teaching assistant can really move the workshop along by helping with taping and with distribution of straws, rubber bands, etc. Please no more than two helpers per class besides yourself.

Procedure

Step 0.1 – Use the Pre-show Guide to prepare your students for the performance (you can also use portions of the Guide as a follow-up to the performance).

Step 1: Performance – Your students will receive an introductory performance, either as an assembly or as an individual classroom workshop. This session will give your students all the information they need to know about recycling and building instruments. It will also inspire your students to collect lots of materials.

Step 1.1 – Use the Study Guide as a follow-up to the Introductory session (if you did not use it before the Introductory session).

Step 2 – Materials

- When to Start Collecting Materials – Generally your students should begin collecting and bringing in their materials one week before the Building session.
- Each student should bring 1 or 2 shopping-bags-worth of stuff to the classroom with their names clearly labeled on the bags. If there are materials that do not fit into the bags they should also be clearly labeled with masking tape and/or markers.

- Please DO NOT place the class's materials in one large collective pile – it just wastes the (already short) time of the Building Workshop with needless distribution.
- The student's bags should be stored in an out-of-the-way place within your classroom (if there is such a thing!).
- The BTT teaching artist will bring enough extra materials to give out in case 3 or 4 of your students do not bring any, but we cannot provide enough materials for more students than that. Consider collecting your own stash of materials if you feel that your students may not bring in enough themselves.
- The BTT teaching artist will also bring enough straws (for oboes – grade 2 and up) and duct tape for the entire class. The students will be asked to bring in rubber bands and shaking materials (like rice or beans) but the BTT instructor will bring some as well. If you wish to help provide some of these materials (like shaking stuff, rubber bands or tape) it may move things along faster.

Step 3 – **Setting up the Classroom on the day of the Building Workshop**

Before the BTT Instructor enters your classroom please distribute the students' bags to them. They should NOT take the materials out of the bags or put them on the desks. The bags should be put on the floor underneath or next to the students' desks.

The Building session consists of three parts: **Intro, Building, and Playing the Instruments:**

Intro - When the BTT instructor comes into your class the first thing he/she will do is a short intro to get the students ready and lay down guidelines for the session. This can take place either at their desks or at a meeting area.

Building – During this part the BTT instructor will come around to each student to help them with ideas and materials and physical assistance. You (and any parents/assistants you may have) will be asked to help the students with taping, cutting, etc. The students will be encouraged to remain at their desks so that the BTT instructor can move quickly and efficiently around the room and ensure that all the students have been tended to.

Playing the instruments – In this final part of the session the BTT Instructor will take the students through an age-appropriate exercise in which the students get to play all their instruments. The BTT Instructor will also be giving you some ideas about how you can do similar exercises with your students' instruments.

Conclusion

Thanks for using this prep sheet! We look forward to our workshop together.

Please don't forget that you can contact us at our email address which is bashthetrash@mac.com if you have questions. You can also send your students to www.bashthetrash.com which is the address of the Bash the Trash website.