

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Thailand: Wirag and His Xylophone I Love Music Series

Vocabulary:

Define the following key terms:

Bangkok, Thailand, xylophone, resonate, instrument, “play by ear,” memorize, concentrate, perform, particular, province, represented, float, traditional, jury, precious, Polang, accompanying, brag, Buddhist, temple, melodies, monk, ancient, exception, overwhelmed, comparison, intricate, and masterpiece

Pre-Viewing Questions:

- 1) Locate Thailand on a map or globe. On which continent is Thailand located? Point out Bangkok, China, the Sea of Japan and the Pacific Ocean on the map.
- 2) Describe what you think are the general characteristics of Thailand such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) What are your favorite hobbies or activities? In what kinds of activities are you interested? Do you take lessons for your activities? What kinds of lessons do you take?

Post-Viewing Questions:

- 1) Describe Wirag’s town. Compare the city where Wirag lives to your own town. How is it similar or different to your own? Describe the people. Are they similar or different from people you know?
- 2) Compare and contrast Wirag’s activities to your own. How are they similar or different? Why does Wirag take lessons? Do your activities involve lessons of some kind? Where does Wirag go for his lessons? Do you take lessons in a school or in a home? Have you ever performed in public like Wirag? What kind of performance was it? Have you ever been in a parade? What are parades like where you live? Compare and contrast your religious experience with Wirag’s. How is his experience like or unlike your own?
- 3) Why does Wirag like to go early for his lessons? What makes him laugh when he watches the other classes? Why? Where does Wirag sit when he is taking a lesson? Why is this necessary?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Research the history and origination of the xylophone. Visit a band at your school or invite a xylophone player to perform for the class.
- 2) Prepare a geographic profile of Thailand noting its size, location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural traits. Describe Thailand’s history, people, language, principal industries and major tourist attractions.