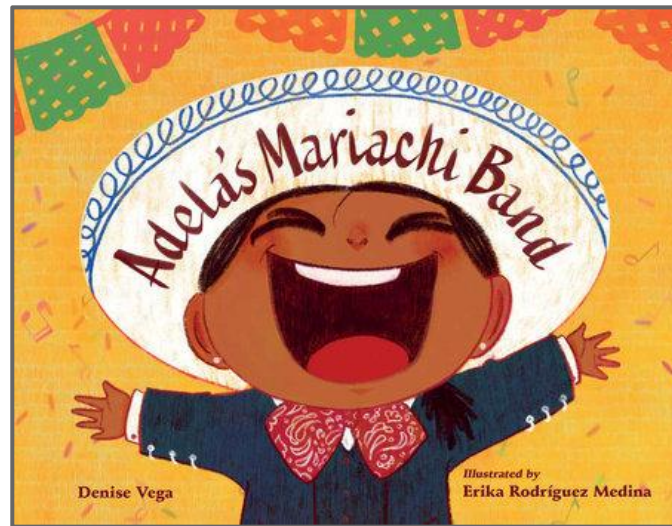




Adela's Mariachi Band

Activity: Adela's Tissue Box Guitar

Developed by Ana Zequeira, Adelaide Everhart, and Delaney Sheppard for CU Boulder's Children Book Festival 2025, Open Education Resource, Creative Commons. Available at colorado.edu/event/bookfest"





Grade and Colorado Academic Standard



Grade Level: 2nd

Content Area: Music

Standard Category: Response to Music

Grade Level Expectation: Describe music from various cultures in their own words.

Evidence Outcome: Describe varying kinds of voices and instruments and their uses in various settings.



- "Colorado Academic Standard information retrieved from <https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/standards>.
- View the full standards at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/standards>





Activity Overview

This activity will introduce students to the story of *Adela's Mariachi Band* and the tradition of mariachi music. After reading the story in a class read aloud, students will watch videos of real life mariachi bands to gain a better understanding of the sounds and energy of the music. Finally, each student will make their own instrument using materials collected from home and in the classroom, like guitars from tissue boxes, rubber bands, and toilet paper rolls. In the book, Adela wants to play a guitar like the rest of her family, so students will get the chance to make their own! They can also choose to decorate them using stickers and markers. They will create these individually but are free to socialize during it.



Materials

- Have every child bring an empty tissue box and paper towel roll to school. (Provide extras!)
- Tissue Boxes
- Rubber Bands
- Paper Towel Rolls
- Toilet Paper Rolls
- Paper
- Tape/Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers (for decoration!)
- Crayons/Markers (for decoration!)



Step-By-Step Directions

- Have every child bring an empty tissue box and paper towel roll to school. Bring in extra boxes and rolls for students who can't provide them. Encourage students to bring in extra if they have the means to!
- Ask students "Have you heard Mariachi music before?" and explain that Mariachi music is apart of Mexican/Latinx culture.
- Introduce Mariachi bands by showing a few videos to the class.
- Read *Adela's Mariachi Band!*

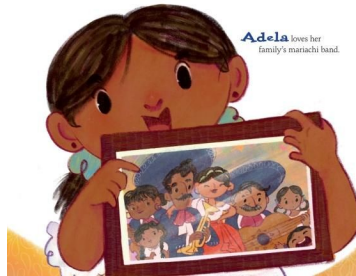


A recommended
video:

[https://www.youtube.com
/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch)

Step-By-Step Directions (cont.)

- Tell students that Adela, in the book, is a part of Latinx culture, and that her family plays in a Mariachi band.
- Explain the different types of instruments that Mariachi bands use that are shown in the book (guitar, trumpet, and violin).
- Explain to the students that guitars are instruments that use strings to make sounds and music.
- Return to the Mariachi videos and ask students to identify what instruments they are hearing, maybe they can hear a guitar?



Step-By-Step Directions (cont.)

- Have children decorate their papers with coloring utensils and stickers.
- Use tape to cover the tissue boxes and paper towel rolls with their decorations.
- Use scissors to cut 1-inch slits around one end of the decorated paper towel roll and fold them outwards so that they are able to be glued to the tissue boxes.
- Glue the paper towel roll to one end of the tissue box.
- Finally, stretch 3 rubber bands across the tissue box (hotdog style) to create the strings.
- Enjoy playing music!



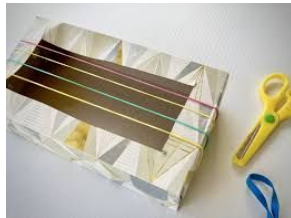
Step-By-Step Directions (wrap up)

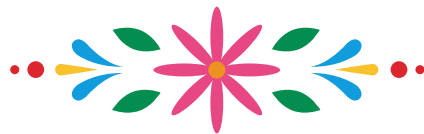
- To wrap up the activity, have students explain in their own words:
 - What type of music they learned about.
 - What culture they learned about in class that is connected to the book.
 - What types of instruments they read about.
- Students can write this on a piece of paper as an 'exit ticket' to the activity, or on the back of their guitar!



Additional Suggestions

- Play mariachi music in the background during the instrument making process.
- Invite "show and tell" of each student's instrument.
- Set aside time at the end of class for a concert where the students can play their instruments.
- Children who finish earlier can assist students who are struggling making instruments.
- Students can pair up for extra support in the instrument making process.
- Teachers can help students make instruments if they have a physical challenge preventing it.





We also hope you can join us on Saturday, November 8 at the Boulder Public Library to meet Denise Vega and hear more about *Adela's Mariachi Band* in-person...along with other authors and illustrators! For more information, visit

<https://www.colorado.edu/event/bookfest>



The CU Boulder School of Education and Boulder Bookstore present the 2025 Children's Book Festival

Saturday, November 8 | Boulder Public Library



**SALINA
YOON**



**NYASHA
WILLIAMS**



**DENISE
VEGA**



**PAM
MUÑOZ RYAN**



**RITA
WILLIAMS-GARCIA**



**SHAREE
MILLER**



Join us on Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

 **Boulder Public Library (Main Branch)** - 1001 Arapahoe Ave.
Free parking available

This **free event** includes author talks, a panel for educators, book sales and signing, children's activities and more. Come for part of the event, or stay for the day!

Free educational resources available on our website. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for teachers and librarians.

The CU Children's Book Festival is supported by a grant from the CU Office for Public and Community Engaged Scholarship (PACES)



See the schedule & register:
colorado.edu/event/bookfest

**BOULDER
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



School of Education
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



**Boulder
Bookstore**