

MUSIC · GRADES 2–4

Soundscapes

Painting pictures with sound

What's a soundscape?

A soundscape is a piece of music made of SOUNDS that suggest a PLACE or feeling — not a melody. Close your eyes in a forest: birds, leaves, branches, distant water. That's a real soundscape. We can compose one in the classroom too.

Step by step

1. Pick a scene: forest, beach, busy city, thunderstorm, kitchen, market, snow.
2. Brainstorm: what sounds happen there? List 6–10.
3. Match each sound to a CLASS resource: feet shuffling = leaves; tongue clicks = drops; whispers = wind. Be creative.
4. Decide on an ORDER. Starts quiet → builds → ends quiet works well.
5. Conduct your group: point at each person when their sound starts.
6. Record it on a phone. Play back. Refine.
7. Perform to the class. Can the audience guess your scene?

