



Education Resources Awards 2011 Secondary Resources Gamelan

Thank you for requesting feedback from our judges about your entry.

The quality of entries this year has been consistently high, highlighting the tremendous vision of the resources industry and its commitment to education.

The panel of independent judges – all education professionals - convened in February to judge your submission. The Education Resources Awards judgements were achieved through lengthy analysis and detailed discussions. During their deliberations, the judges were asked to write comments/observations on your product against the published Education Resources Awards judging criteria. We hope that these comments will be useful to you.

As with all Awards, only a few companies/products can be short-listed. Judges are usually very complimentary about aspects of the entries that they see, but make decisions about which ones would best make a practical impact on learning and the day-to-day work of the teachers in the classroom. It is not that they think your product/company was inadequate - they just thought that five or six others better fitted the criteria. Please be aware that we are unable to enter into any correspondence regarding the judges' feedback.

COMMENTS

This is a great resource and priced extremely competitively for the various packages.

- Would broaden learners' understanding and experience of world music traditions
- Gives opportunities to perform together and experience ensemble playing in a unique environment
- Gamelan music can be simplistic or complex due to the nature of the interlocking parts, therefore learning can be differentiated in delivery and performance
- With a Gamelan set every child will have a role to play that can be matched to ability
- No prerequisite for ability to read music or advanced instrumental skills, access to performance is immediate
- Can be taught by non specialists because ability to read music is not needed and structures built on repetition of cycles makes performance easier and quicker for group work.
- Instruments are very tactile, large enough to be easily managed when playing.
- Will produce a musically satisfying sound for the learner, within a very short time as tonality is not based on the western scale. All notes will fit together harmonically.
- Great opportunity to bring world culture into the classroom

Negatives

- Large amount of storage space needed and usually needs to be *left in situ*.
- Expense for individual schools, sharing is more likely scenario
- Impractical for individual components to be taken home so all learning needs to take place in school
- Very large initial outlay.



**Education Resources Awards 2011
Primary Resources
African Drumming Kit**

COMMENTS

The judges liked this product a lot. It provided a good resource for whole class teaching of music - an area where teachers often lack expertise and confidence. It is attractive and well organised with accessories having individual storage bags.

There are clear and detailed instructions with a supporting CD and teaching book with clear lesson plans which made it easy enough for a non-specialist to follow. These start with simple introductory exercises with the teacher initially taking the lead and the children following, repeating the pattern of the beat. The teaching notes continue to develop the skills ending at a level enabling the children to give a full performance of drumming - an outcome the judges particularly liked. There was a clear code, using symbols, to aid the notation of the created music enabling it to be repeated time and time again.

The flexibility in the size of set, and therefore price, does make it more affordable for school budgets. The drums are of varying sizes and there is, in addition, a wide range of percussion instruments thereby enabling a variety of sounds and effects to be created by the pupils.

It targets areas of creativity and the arts, areas many schools are trying to improve, and would certainly be very much enjoyed by pupils of all primary ages. As well as forming a valuable part of the music syllabus they would also link to other areas of the curriculum particularly geography(Africa), RE and citizenship (other cultures) science (sound) and art (as artefacts).

The judges very much liked and appreciated the way it meets environment and sustainable principles in its production.

The judges felt that this range of musical instruments and resources have the potential to motivate and enthuse both pupils and teachers to create stimulating musical experiences as well as introducing children to the music of other cultures.

It was however felt that a DVD to show the drums in action would be a useful addition to the teacher's notes. The main drawbacks to the sets were the initial expense and possible storage problems – both ongoing issues in schools. It was thought that they may only, sadly, be a feasible purchase for larger schools even allowing for the different sizes of sets that could be purchased remembering that these would not be the only musical instruments needed by the school and the fact that they would probably only be used periodically when appropriate curriculum links were there, possibly only once a year. Also the performance, though an excellent idea could only be done once by any single cohort. It was felt a way forward could be that they could be purchased by a group of schools to share if one of the schools had storage space.