

Virtual Xylophones

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In my journey to find resources for this unusual school year, a colleague of mine shared a link for a virtual xylophone. At first glance, I ignored the email. I'll be honest, I can be a little stubborn and I wasn't sure that I wanted my students to play virtual xylophones when I really wanted them to play the real thing! However as I continued planning for the year and learning about all of the cleaning guidelines, I decided to take a look back at the resource. As I explored I realized that I really did like this resource and that it could definitely be used in conjunction with the "real thing" in my classroom. Additionally, it dawned on me that it could be a great resource to teach the kids to use so that it would be available for activities should we go full remote at some point in the year.

Some of my favorite features of the virtual xylophone:

- Easy to play! While using numbers instead of letters to play each bar initially was a learning curve, I appreciated how they chose keys that were next to each other on the keyboard so that as you played up and down the keyboard it was similar to playing up and down a xylophone.
- It has options to play in C and F pentatonic – and you can switch it with just one key!
- Options for accidentals, and again, they are easy to use!

I was very happy that I decided to dig in to this digital resource and give it a try. While it doesn't beat the feeling of playing our usual xylophones, it has proved to be a helpful resource in my classroom!

Here is the link: <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/388230026/>