

# #CONCERTSFORKIDS

## Activity Guide



Photo courtesy of the artist

## Villalobos Brothers

*Born and raised in Xalapa, Mexico, The Villalobos Brothers combine traditional Mexican folk music with jazz and classical harmonies, delivering a high-energy, infectious sound. Let's explore some music and themes from the concert!*

### Suggested Materials



- Paper
- Pens, pencils, crayons, or markers – any writing or drawing utensil
- Colored pencil, crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Computer, tablet or phone with internet access
- Other craft supplies as desired!

## Warm Up



The Villalobos Brothers play various instruments in the string family! Let's use the tones of these string instruments to resonate sounds in our bodies!



The **violin** is the “baby” of the string family. It makes the highest sound.

Put your hand on your nose and sing, “Vi-o-lin” in a high pitch. Allow your voice to resonate through your nose, so that it has a nasal sound.



[Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA](#)

The **vihuela** is a Spanish-stringed instrument, a type of guitar. Put your hand on your chest and sing “Vi-hue-la” in a slightly lower pitch. Rub your chest as you sing: see if you can feel the sound resonating through your heart.



The **cello** looks like a violin, but it is much longer. It is 4 feet long. It makes lower sounds. It is pronounced “che-low”.

Put your hands on your belly and sing, “Ceeee-llooooo.” To feel this sound, really elongate the vowels so it sounds like, “Ceeeeell-oooooooooo!”

The **double bass** is like the grandfather of the string family. This instrument is the biggest, over 6 feet long! It is also called bass or upright bass.

Put your hands on your hips, and sing in the lowest pitch you can, “Double bass.” To help get your voice low, relax your jaw and your face and imagine that you are melting. Say, “Double bass” like you are speaking in slow motion, “Doooouuubbbbleeee baaaaaaaasss.”

## Create a Collage

The Villalobos Brothers create art with their friends and family, even though they are far apart. They talk about keeping a space in your heart for someone that you miss!

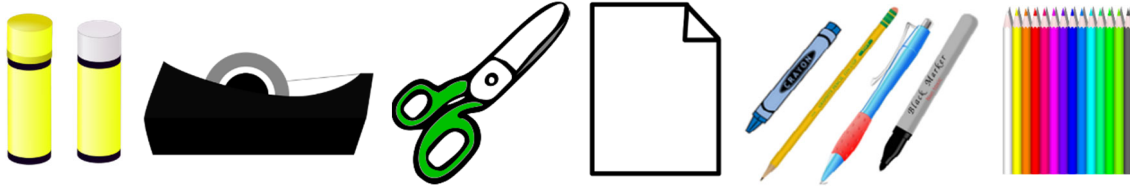
Create a collage for someone that you love and miss right now. This could be someone who you are not able to see because of quarantine, someone who lives far away, or someone who is no longer with us. To make a collage, you will use a variety of materials, such as stickers, photographs, drawings, and colorful paper to represent this person you love!



## STEP 1

The supplies you will need for your collage are:

- Something sticky (ie. Mod podge, glue, or tape)
- Scissors
- Paper
- Something to write/draw with (ie. markers, colorful pencils, and/or crayons)



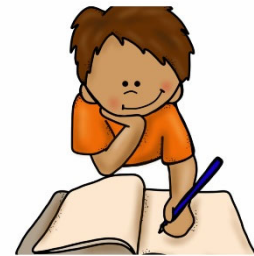
## STEP 2

Choose a person you love and/or miss.

## STEP 3

Collect materials for your collage to represent this person.

These can include: a photograph or drawn picture of this person. You could draw a few pictures of them in different places doing different things.



They can include greeting cards, postcards, maps, or tickets from experiences with the person. Maybe these things are not from this person, but remind you of them.



Look through magazines and newspapers: are there photographs or articles that this person would like? Cut them out!

Can you cut out colorful paper (like construction paper, tissue paper, or wrapping paper) that reminds you of this person?

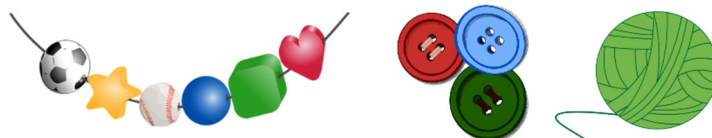


Think about what this person's favorite colors are or what weather and seasons this person likes and use some colors for that season. For example, blues for winter or light green and yellow for spring.

What nature does this person like? If you would like to collect feathers, leaves, grass, or flower petals, you can use those.



What else can you add to your collage that might represent this person you love? There are no wrong answers here! Find whatever you can to express this person: stickers, ribbons, seeds, confetti, beads, buttons, pom pom balls!



## STEP 3

Lay out your poster or paper. Arrange your materials on the paper: explore different positions!

Once you feel happy with your collage, tape or glue the materials onto the poster/paper.



If you are using mod podge, you can coat the mod podge over your materials and pictures to “seal” your collage (note: when putting mod podge over paper materials, flatten them down so that there are no air bubbles).

#### STEP 4

Share your art!

Maybe you take a photo of it and send it to the person it is about via text. Maybe you video call them on so that they can see it. Maybe you can mail it to them.



Maybe you just want to remember them! Find a spot to keep your collage so that you can keep your loved one close to your heart!

## Tenochtitlán

The Villalobos Brothers play a song about Tenochtitlán, which Alberto describes in greater detail in the concert.

Tenochtitlán was a city in what is now Mexico City. The Aztec people lived there.

In the concert, Alberto describes the legend of how the Aztec people built their city Tenochtitlán when they saw an eagle eating a snake on the lake.



The Spanish conquistadors took over the city of Tenochtitlán in 1521 and conquered the Aztec people.



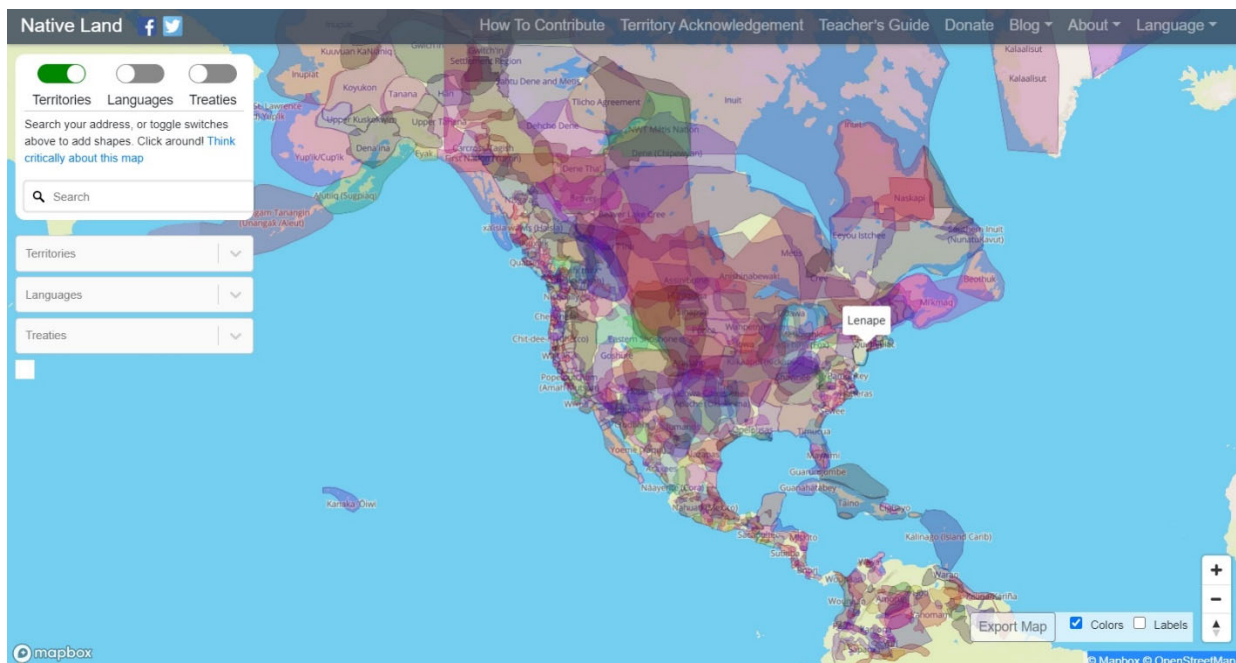
Jan Karel Donatus Van Beeck (1638-1722)

## Explore the Land Around Us

Indigenous people lived all over America before European colonizers came and took over this country.

The Native Land project allows you to learn about the various indigenous peoples that lived in different parts of America.

Visit <https://native-land.ca/> to discover what indigenous people lived where you live now.



How do you pronounce the name of the indigenous people? What language do they speak?

In the past, what were their homes like? What was their transportation, food, clothing? What else can you learn about them? Where do they live now?

## Write a Poem

Create a poem about where you live and its history of indigenous people. You can write your own poem, or use the following template for inspiration:

I live in \_\_\_\_\_.

I am called \_\_\_\_\_.

Where I live, I like to

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The indigenous people who lived here before me are

\_\_\_\_\_.

They

\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I notice \_\_\_\_\_.

I wonder \_\_\_\_\_.

I hope \_\_\_\_\_.

## Family Music

The Villalobos Brothers come together as a family to fuse Mexican folk music with the harmonies of classical and jazz music.



What are different musical styles that YOUR family likes? Reggae? Blues? Rock? Folk? Pop? Techno?



How does this music make your family feel? Why do you like it?

### STEP 1

With your family members, create a musical playlist or choose a CD that plays the music that your family loves. See if you can incorporate lots of different musical styles!



### STEP 2

Play the music and warm up! Have each family member to show a stretch that they need to warm-up their body. Invite the other family members to do the same stretch!



### STEP 3

Move different body parts to the rhythm of the music, such as:

- Head
- Shoulders
- Hips
- Feet

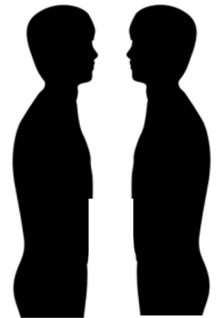


Add other body parts to focus on!

Move at different levels: low to the ground, in the middle, up high.

### STEP 4

Now, try to mirror each other. Two people face one another. Choose one person to lead and have the other person follow them.



The person leading should move and dance to the music playing. Allow the music to inspire different movements!

The other person will try to copy them exactly. Challenge yourselves to move at the same time: as if you are looking at one another in the mirror!

**BONUS CHALLENGE:** have someone watch you both dance. Can they guess who is leading? See if you can make it so they cannot guess.

## Discussion Questions

What are some games or songs that this activity reminds you of? Why?

The Villalobos Brothers like to play music together. What do you like to do with your siblings, family, or friends?



After learning more about indigenous people from your own research as well as from Alberto, what else are you curious about? How can you learn more?

Dança da Solidão is a song in Portuguese. It means “The Dance of Loneliness” in English. Sometimes being alone can feel sad. What do you do when you are feeling lonely to make yourself feel better?

Sometimes being alone can be fun! If no one was watching you, what would you like to sing, dance, wear, draw, eat, and create?

The Villalobos Brothers communicate with people across the world through technology! Who do you communicate with through technology?

What fun things can you do when talking to someone through a screen?

What do you want to know more about?