Making Music with the Makey Makey

An introduction to circuit building and musical instruments.
The Makey Makey

Is a circuit board that works like a computer keyboard. Press the button, complete the circuit, type to letter.
Synthesizers work in a similar manner. Except when you press a key, it sends a musical note to the computer.
Our goal today, is to design a controller with our group. Then compose a song with it.
Step 1
Designing a controller

Meet with your group. Grab a Makey Makey. Design your controller.

Meet with your group, and start to brainstorm controller ideas for the Makey Makey.

Pick up a Makey Makey, and a set of components and start to work through the challenges that we will present to you.
The Components.

You will have several components to choose from.

Push buttons trigger the key when held down. Switches trigger the key when on. Pencil graphite can act like both switches and buttons.
Step 2
Once your set up with your group and you’ve been given the components, you can wire it up to the makey makey.
Wiring the makey makey.

Find the button you want to control with the Makey Makey.

Run a alligator clip or wire from that button to your music controller.

Then run one back from the music controller to the Makey Makey earth bar.
Step 3
Using Soundplant to make music.

Soundplant is a sample pad that converts each keyboard key, into a sample player.

Just drag a sample from the folder to soundplant and drop it on the key you want to use. then make sure your makey makey is wired to that key.

Finally mess with the settings until you get your sample playback right.
Pulling it all together.
You have a synth, a sample pad hooked up to it, and a folder full of samples of different types of music. Start playing.
Spazzkid vs Makey Makey

Remember anything can be turned into a way to play music.