

**ACTIVITY GUIDE**

## Tom Nechville – Banjo Maker:

### Writing/Essay/Journal

Banjo maker Tom Nechville invented a new way to make banjos. He likes that he is “not expected to follow the mold of previous builders.” Do you feel that there are people who want you to fit into a mold? Do you prefer tradition or do you like doing things your own way? How does Nechville add something unique to his craft? What emotions can be most easily expressed through banjo making?



### Activity

Nechville looked at a classical banjo and saw how complicated it was. He applied the idea of a jar lid to improve the function and sound of the banjo. Try your hand at improving a musical instrument, tool, or machine. How can you make something more efficient? How do you even start finding something to improve?