

Introduction

Classroom Music Games & Activities is a collection created to help you teach music basics whether you have a music degree or no formal music training. Students will listen closely, identify musical notation and terms, recognize instruments, and more!

Keep your students engaged with the material. Bring out their creative side when they create their own dance At the Hop, come up with a School Spirit song, and design an Album of the Year based on a musical style of their choice. Reinforce lessons from other subjects with the activities that provide cross-curricular elements, such as language arts and critical thinking. As students begin to grasp the basics, you can move on to activities that are more difficult or adapt the activities to include new material. Students will continue to be challenged throughout the year!

WHOLE-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Get your students' attention and keep them on the same page by using activities for the whole class. These activities are easy to organize and require few, if any, additional materials. Some activities include game cards that can be reproduced on card stock and even laminated to reduce wear and tear; it will also save you the time of having to copy them again for future games. Many of them can be played for multiple rounds to further increase their educational value.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Group and partner activities can be used to build cooperation and teamwork within your classroom. Putting students together that may not know each other very well and encouraging them to get to know their classmates can strengthen interpersonal communication skills, classroom cooperation, and perhaps even spark a new friendship. Use these activities multiple times and for multiple rounds to further increase their educational value.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Use the reproducible worksheets to let students work and learn on their own. Many of the worksheets include all of the information the students need, such as terms, definitions, symbols, and biographies. Others will ask students to use the knowledge they already have and can be used to assess how well individuals understand the material.

The activities in this book can get your students up and moving or provide them with fun ways to work at their desks. Either way, their creativity and music knowledge will grow. Mix and match whole-class, group, and individual activities to create entertaining lesson plans, and watch as your students have a blast and reinforce music basics!



At the Hop

Recreate a sock hop by playing a few songs from the early rock era (such as *The Twist* and *Jailhouse Rock*). Find examples of classic dance moves, such as the Mashed Potato and the Sprinkler, on the Internet, teach them to the class, and have a dance contest.

The students can then form small groups and create a dance about something in their daily lives to another song from the 1950s and 60s or to a song from today. For example, the School Bus could start with a walk forward (the movement of the bus) followed by the extension of the right arm (the bus's stop sign being released).



Draw the Music

Play a recording of a selected piece of music that does not have any lyrics (or has lyrics in a different language). Classical, jazz, bluegrass, new age, and opera are all great music styles to choose from, and many free clips can be found on the Internet. Feel free to choose any piece of music, but do not tell your students the name of the chosen piece. Play the recording for your students. As the music plays, challenge the students to sit quietly and listen to it carefully.

Provide each student with a piece of paper and drawing materials. As they listen through the music a second time, have the students draw the picture that the music creates in their minds. What do they think of when they hear the music? Does the music remind them of a certain time or place? Have each student present his or her drawing and explain it to the class. At the end of the activity, tell the students the name of the selected music.

Listen Carefully

Teams of students need to listen carefully to various songs to identify musical instruments and win points in this activity.

Divide the class into small teams. Play a short song, or part of a song. Instruct the teams to listen carefully and try to pick out as many instruments as possible. After the song has ended, have students raise their hands and identify as many different instruments as they heard. Each correct guess receives one point for the team.

Students can also enjoy this activity with clips that demonstrate only one instrument at a time. Play a sound, and have team members work together to identify the instrument. Each correct answer receives a point, and the team with the most points at the end of the game is the winner!

After guesses have been made, play each song again and discuss them with the class. Encourage students to think about the songs by asking questions:

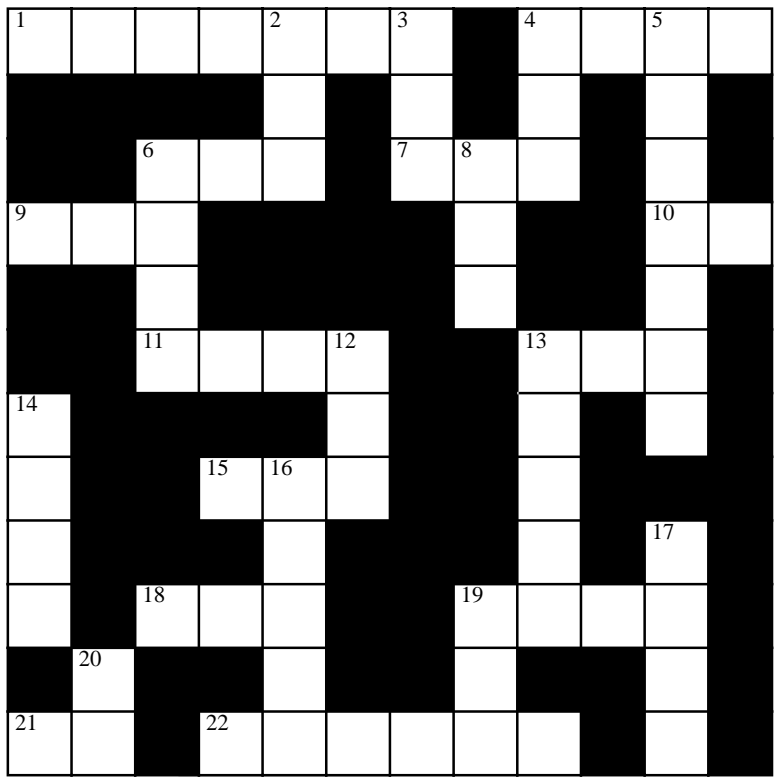
- Is it loud or soft?
- Is it fast or slow?
- Is it high or low?
- When might you hear it?
- How does it make you feel?

As an alternative to songs, have the students listen to various sound effects to identify sounds and win points. Inexpensive sound effects CDs can be found at electronics stores and discount stores. You may even have one left over from a school play!



Notespeller Crossword

Spell each of the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

- 1.
- 4.
- 6.
- 7.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

- 13.
- 15.
- 18.
- 19.
- 21.
- 22.

DOWN

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 8.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 16.
- 17.
- 19.
- 20.