



CLIBURN IN THE CLASSROOM

LAUGH OUT LOUD!

Finding the funny in whimsical songs

CLASS ACTIVITY: Balloon Intervals Grade Level(s): 3-5 Subject Areas: Music

OBJECTIVE

This lesson reinforces pitch identification, intervals, and ear training using a multi-sensory approach.

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Dozens of balloons in seven colors and a set of colored/numbered dice such as [these](#) are needed for this activity. Some set up work is needed to prepare for this lesson. On one side of the room, set up a musical scale using the balloons. Each pitch of the scale should be represented by a different color; write the represented note on the balloon, and set them up in a line in ascending order to act as a visual aid. On the other side of the room, fill and scatter all of the remaining balloons. Be sure to leave enough space for students to run back and forth across the room.

MUSIC TO EXPLORE

ELLINGER [Balloon Pop Polka](#)

ACTIVITY

1. To play this game, students roll the dice to randomly select a color and a number. First, they find the pitch of the scale that corresponds to that color using the balloon scale for reference. The number on the dice represents the interval distance from the note; depending on grade level and musical fluency, this interval can be above or below the given pitch.
2. Have the student sing the interval, then run to the opposite side of room where the balloons are scattered and pop the color balloon that corresponds to the correct interval. For example, if C is represented by green balloons, and E is represented by blue balloons, any student who rolled a green 3 would have to find a third above the note C. They would sing the pitch E, then run to the opposite side of the room and pop a blue balloon.
3. For a more sensory friendly approach, instead of popping the balloons, allow students to fill them themselves and let them fly!