



CLASS ACTIVITY (SOCIALY DISTANT): CHANGING TUNES

OVERVIEW

In this activity, students will explore the idea of theme and variation by improvising their own variations on “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” on kazoos.

MATERIALS: Toilet paper tubes, wax paper, rubber bands, sharpened pencil, paper.

MAKE YOUR OWN KAZOO

Supply each student with a toilet paper tube, a square of wax paper large enough to cover one end of the tube, a rubber band, and a sharpened pencil.

First, use the sharpened pencil to make a small hole about 2 inches from one end of the tube. This step can be done by the teacher if working with a younger group.

Then, wrap the square of wax paper tightly over the same end of the tube where the hole was created. Secure the wax paper with a rubber band; be sure not to cover the hole made in the first step.

To play your kazoo, place the open end of the tube over your mouth and hum.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Start by reviewing theme and variation with the class. A theme is a melody, and a variation is a restatement of the melody in a different way.

In this activity, our theme is “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” First have the class play the theme on their kazoos together. Next model the theme by yourself, but choose one musical trait to change, creating a variation. Have the class explain what you changed to create your variation. Then have the class discuss some other ways in which themes can be changed.

Here are a few examples to help their discussion along:

- Alter the ending
- Play the theme very slowly or very quickly
- Play all notes in the melody as staccato
- Change the rhythm
- Add trills or turns (ornaments)
- Change the mood of the theme



THE CLIBURN

CLIBURN KIDS

Divide the class into small groups, and have each group decide how they will be changing the theme to create their own variation. Give each group time to practice their variation, then have the groups model their variations for the class, explaining what it is that they changed to create their variation.

Once each group has played their variation, put the theme and variations together as one piece. Have the class start by playing the theme together, then have each group play their variations one at a time until all groups have played.

OPTIONAL

Choose another familiar tune and repeat the activity.