



CLASS ACTIVITY: Playing Patterns

OVERVIEW

In this activity, students will focus on recognizing and creating their own musical patterns.

MATERIALS: Paper (one piece per student), pencils, pens

SPACE CONSIDERATIONS: Students will be sitting in a circle on the floor, so consider moving desks and chairs to one side of the room to create space, if needed.

HOW TO PLAY

Have students sit in a large circle on the floor and demonstrate the following pattern for them: clap, hands tap floor, clap, hands tap floor. Continue this pattern and have students join in. This pattern is an AB sound pattern in which A is clapping and B is hands tapping the floor. After practicing this pattern, have students assign one shape to A, and one shape to B (i.e. A is triangle, and B is square). Draw the AB pattern using the assigned shapes on the board.

Next, demonstrate clap, clap, hands tap floor (or an AAB pattern). As students join in, ask them to think about what shape pattern this creates (i.e. triangle, triangle, square). Repeat this process with ABB and AABB patterns, drawing each on the board (or having a student volunteer draw them on the board).

Divide students into small groups; each will need a piece of paper and writing utensil. Have each student write their own shape patterns using the assigned shapes for A and B. Then have the other small group members translate each other's shape patterns into sound patterns. Challenge students to create a pattern that you haven't demonstrated yet. If desired, ask for volunteers to write their shape patterns on the board for the entire class to demonstrate.

OPTIONAL: Introduce a C action and shape (i.e. patting shoulders, snapping) into the patterns for an extra challenge.

ADD RHYTHM STICKS

If available, use rhythm sticks to do the above activity. If not available, or for an added activity, have students create their own "rhythm sticks" by decorating craft sticks with markers, crayons, stickers, etc.

Demonstrate hitting rhythm sticks together, and then tapping them on the floor as AB pattern.