



SmashBeats

TODAY'S ACTIVITY

1. The Name Game

WHO IS THIS ACTIVITY FOR?

Students in years 5 - 7

WHO CAN LEAD THIS ACTIVITY?

Class teacher, music specialist or instrumental teacher

WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

Students will learn about syllables in words and how to identify rhythm in words

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- A large space to sit in a circle
- Tuned / untuned instruments

THE ACTIVITY

1. Finding the syllables in our names

Sit the class in a wide circle. Students begin by creating a steady beat, this can be anything you'd like, but you could start with a slow thump on the thighs followed by a finger click, making a slow 2 beat pulse. All students begin the chant:

'My name is [...] and I like [...]'

The thump should come on the word name and click on the student's name. Each student around the circle then has the opportunity to fill in the boxes. For instance, my name is Sarah and I like pizza. This exercise will help students to fit the syllables of their names and favourite food/animal/instrument into the space of one beat. You can go around the circle adding variants to create different rhythms.

2. Creating rhythms from syllables

The game is repeated but this time instead of saying their name and favourite thing, students use their instrument to play the rhythm. This exercise helps to illustrate the direct correlation between words and rhythm. This can be a springboard for a conversation with students about eliciting rhythm and pitch from words.

WHAT WILL WE ASSESS?

- Students will know that different words have different numbers of syllables and different stresses that can be used to create rhythms
- Students will be able to create inventive combinations of syllables and play these on an instrument
- Students will be able to fit more complex syllabic rhythms into the simple four beat structure of the chant