



SmashBeats

TODAY'S ACTIVITY

10. Syn-CO-PA-tion

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?

How to identify and create syncopated rhythm

WHAT DO WE NEED?

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

THE ACTIVITY

1. Recognise a syncopated rhythm (placement of rhythmic stresses or accents where they wouldn't normally occur)

Have students stand in a circle and then divide into 2 groups (semi-circle). The first half of the circle should say the word 'Syncopation' altogether whilst clapping on each syllable (syn-co-pa-tion) repeatedly. The second half of the circle should stamp on the syllable 'syn', clap on the 'co' and 'pa' syllables to accent the odd beat, then stamp again on 'tion' syllable. Students can also use tuned/untuned instruments to play the 'co' and 'pa' syllables.

2. Create a syncopated rhythm as a group

Now in the same circle, divide the students into 4 groups. Each of the four groups chooses a number from 1 to 8. Each group will then clap on the number they have chosen while the leader counts 1 to 8 repeatedly. (eg **1** - 2 - 3 - 4 - **5** - 6 - 7 - 8, the bold numbers being the different number clapped by each group). Leader to increase speed of counting as appropriate and can repeat activity with different groups choosing different numbers to change the rhythm. Instruments can then be introduced in place of claps.

Extension:

1. Repeating the activity above, count to 4 instead of 8, but maintaining the 8 beat groupings. Students will have to feel the space between beats, (counting in quaver beats).
2. Using instruments, four groups split up into different corners of the room to create and practice their own syncopated rhythms using the number activity as a method to create the rhythm. Groups to come back and perform to whole class.

WHAT WILL WE ASSESS?

- Students will identify a syncopated rhythm by using word syllable patterns
- Students will create their own syncopated rhythms as an ensemble
- Students will understand how to create and perform a syncopated rhythm