



# SmashBeats

## TODAY'S ACTIVITY

### 5. Rap

#### 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?

Elements of rap music and how to write raps

#### WHAT DO WE NEED?

- Projector / flipchart
- Pens & paper

### THE ACTIVITY

#### 1. Hearing the rhythm in rap

Take the role of the 'MC' or 'Master of Ceremonies', a person who introduces rappers to the stage in rap battles. Here is an example rap, you should read to the class or ask for a volunteer:

**'Take some words and add a beat,  
Grab some friends and move your feet,  
Rap to the rhythm, you've got the flow  
It's your turn. Let's hear it, GO!'**

There is distinct rhythm in the way the words flow, with rhyming couplets helping to add to the beat. Split the class so that one half creates a beat with their hands and feet, (on beat 1 feet stomp, 2 clap, 3 feet stomp, 4 clap) while the other half vocalises the rap, and then switch over.

#### 2. Creating our own raps

Rap music is often based around topics, money, family, lifestyles etc. Ask the pupils to think of some topics they would rap about. Homework, school, hobbies? Can they use interesting metaphors and adjectives?

Split the class into groups of five to write and accompany their raps. Children should take turns to provide the accompaniment and perform the rap. Have the groups perform their raps to the rest of the class. As MC introduce each group with their rap group name!

#### Extension:

Rap Battle – Encourage students to try rapping in real time to a given theme, using instruments to accompany. Those who keep their rhythm and flow win!

#### HOW WILL WE ASSESS WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE LEARNT?

- Students will recognise the pulse in rap music
- Students will know how to rap in time and accompany rappers with a beat
- Students will know how to create their own raps using timing, rhyming and literacy skills