

SmashBeats

TODAY'S ACTIVITY

6. Rhythm Grid - Drum Kit

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 layered rhythms can be notated very simply and translated into a performance

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- Rhythm grid
- Projector / flipchart
- Pens & paper

THE ACTIVITY

1. Using Rhythm Grids

Using the attached rhythm grid, explain that each beat 1, 2, 3 and 4 has a column and how to read each part across the grid. Each box represents part of a drum kit. 'Boom' (bass drum) is on beat 1 & 3, 'Dat' (snare drum) is 2 & 4 etc.

Split the class into four; giving each group a row to vocalise. Demonstrate how to vocalise each part phonetically i.e. big booming 'boom' and whisper 'tik-ka' 'tik-ka' Practice each group separately, then all together. The result should sound like a 'beat boxed' drum kit. Silence a group or two at a time to highlight different beats. Change the silenced groups around.

2. Creating Rhythm Grids

Split class into groups of four and ask them to create their own rhythm grids. Ask groups to perform to class.

3. Using instruments

Each group can then move their vocal rhythm piece on to their instruments. Students should all perform to class, receiving feedback from their classmates.

Extension:

Ask four students to stand on each side of the grid. Assign them to a row. Count them in and have them all vocalise/play their part at the same time to create different sounds and rhythms. Experiment with grids the students have created.

HOW WILL WE ASSESS WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE LEARNT?

- Students will know how to replicate the sounds of a drum kit with their voices and instruments
- Students will know how layered rhythms can be notated on a layered rhythm grid
- Students will be able to translate a simple rhythm grid into a vocal and instrumental performance



SmashBeats

TODAY'S ACTIVITY

6. Rhythm Grid - Drum Kit

(Continued)

1

2

3

4

BOOM		BOOM	
	DAT		DAT
			DUGGA DUGGA
TIKKA	TIKKA	TIKKA	TIKKA