

# SmashBeats

## TODAY'S ACTIVITY

### 7. First You Make Your Fingers Click

#### WHO IS THIS ACTIVITY FOR?

Students in years 5 - 7

#### WHO CAN LEAD THIS ACTIVITY?

Music specialist or instrumental teacher

#### WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

That stresses can be made on different beats of a 4 beat pattern. How to sing a round, adding body percussion and instrumental stresses

#### WHAT DO WE NEED?

- Tuned / untuned instruments

### THE ACTIVITY

#### 1. Learn the song, 'First you make your fingers click'

Ask the class to learn just the words of the song and to say them with the correct rhythm (see music below) through a call and response method.

Words:

**'First you make your fingers CLICK,  
Then you STAMP your feet,  
Both hands SLAP your knees,  
And CLAP on the beat.'**

Ask pupils to say the words of the whole song with the correct rhythm and add the correct action where there are words in capital letters. Teach pupils the melody of the song, by them copying you singing a line (a bar) at a time. Ask pupils to add the actions as they sing.



Now ask pupils to sing the song but this time ask them to include the actions but omit the actions' words. (The action replaces the action word.)

#### 2. Replacing the actions with instrumental sounds

Students pick up their instruments. This time they sing the song and play a sound where they did an action in the last stage. (It works well to get all tuned instruments to play the same sounding note or notes within a triad.)



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*(Continued)*

#### 3. Singing and playing the song as a round

Divide the class into two halves. Sing the song as a round – Group 1 sings the song, and when they start singing the second line, Group 2 should start singing from the beginning of the song. Students should add all the actions as they sing them.

Using instruments, students sing the song as a round and play a sound where they did an action (see stage 2).

#### **Extension:**

Divide the class into 4 groups. The round can now be tried with four groups, first just singing and then adding instruments to replace the actions.

### WHAT WILL WE ASSESS?

- Students will know how to stress different beats in four beat patterns and the musical effect that this creates
- Students will know how to sing a song as a round
- Students will know how to add vocal and instrumental stresses in a piece