



SmashBeats

TODAY'S ACTIVITY

8. Rhythm Cards

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 mnemonics for rhythms, and how to read these

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- A large space to sit in a circle
- Tuned / untuned instruments
- Rhythm cards from Soundhub website. (www.soundhubkent.com)

THE ACTIVITY

1. Mnemonics for note values

Rhythm cards can be used to teach the rudiments of notation reading from an early stage. Download the rhythm card pack from the Soundhub website for this lesson. Begin by saying and remembering each insect using card 1 (the sounds of the words indicate the rhythm):

Bug
Spider
Caterpillar
Grasshopper
Butterfly

Play these rhythms on your instruments. Sit in a circle and each student should choose to play one of the 5 rhythms.

2. Rhythm Cards

Now use the various rhythm cards with the class, asking students to call out the insects as they read the rhythm. Each student should have a turn around the circle, and then a chance to play on their instrument.

Extension:

A good extension of this exercise is to play Rhythm Bingo. By creating a worksheet with different rhythms, students can match their sheets with the rhythm cards displayed by the teacher. Students should then learn to associate the insect names with the written notations.

HOW WILL WE ASSESS WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE LEARNED?

- Students will associate words with specific rhythms and be able to differentiate
- Students will be able to read rhythms and play these on their instruments
- Students will begin to associate mnemonics with the written notations