



FUN WITH DRUMS LESSON PLAN



“A Home-Cooked Drumming Adventure”

Presented by Bob Bloom, Master Teaching Artist

Overview

This video teaches students to play commonly found items to make musical sounds that are similar to the sounds of formal percussion instruments: a metal food can simulate a cowbell; a plastic container simulates a woodblock; a plastic paint bucket simulates a drum; box of spaghetti simulates a maraca. Students learn how to mirror, create, and play rhythm patterns through the use of repetitive, spoken phonetics.

The video will enrich students’ confidence and self-esteem; no prior musical training is necessary. For students between the ages of 8 to 12, inclusive of students with disabilities, to participate successfully.

Materials List

- Metal Food Can: 14 ounces or larger; opened at one end; cleaned
- Plastic Food or Supplements Container: 12 ounces or larger; cover removed; cleaned
- Plastic Paint Bucket: 5 gallon; clean/unused
- Box of Uncooked Spaghetti: 1 pound, sealed
- Metal Tablespoon

Classroom Questions

After viewing this video, questions to ask students to stimulate interest in playing music with percussion instruments and nurture the “4 C’s of Learning”: collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking.

- 1) In what ways do you experience music? Online? CDs and DVDs? Live performances? Other?
- 2) What are your favorite songs?
- 3) Who are your favorite musical artists?
- 4) How many syllables are there in the pattern, “Peanut Butter”?
- 5) In addition to the “Peanut Butter” pattern in the video, what are other repetitive patterns can you create with your voice using spoken words?
- 6) How can you teach the patterns to your friends, family members, and caregivers?
- 7) What is a “percussion instrument”?
- 8) Can you name any percussion instruments that don’t appear in the video?
- 9) What other “commonly found items” can sound like percussion instruments? (Example: metal saucepan lid)
- 10) Do you already play an instrument(s)? Which one(s)? What instrument “family” is it in? (percussion, brass, woodwinds, strings, etc.)?

Take-Aways

For follow-up, the students are encouraged to play along with the found instruments when they sing their favorite songs during out-of-school time, and to invite their friends, families, and caregivers to play together whenever possible.