

The Combination Game

It is the end of the year and the kids are getting restless. Well, we have a cure for you! As you slowly begin to pack up your room for the summer, keep your Note Knacks handy. You will be glad you did! This month's lesson is a game that will keep your students happy and still teach the standards!

NAFME Content Standard 4: Composing and Arranging Music Within Specific Guidelines

Objectives:

- Students will discover how many combinations of notes make up a longer note
- Students will write these rhythms correctly in conventional notation
- Students will play the non-syncopated rhythms correctly

Materials:

- 1 Set of NK Magnets
- 5 Sets of Note Knacks and Time Signature Frames
- 5 pieces of paper and pencils
- Rhythm instruments in your classroom

Methods:

1. Put your NK Magnets on your magnetic board
2. Point to the quarter note
3. Ask students what notes could be grouped together to equal the length of the quarter note?
 - a. 2 eighths
 - b. 1 eighth and 2 sixteenths
 - c. 2 sixteenths and 1 eighth
 - d. 1 sixteenth, 1 eighth and 1 sixteenth
 - e. 4 sixteenths
4. Ask them to write the possibilities on the board in conventional notation
5. Have kids tap or play their recorders to the rhythms they know (This is an opportunity to explain syncopation, if you haven't already done so. You can either leave it at that or model how to play the rhythm.)
6. Break your students up in to 5 groups.
7. Give each group a set of Note Knacks, a piece of paper and a pencil
8. Tell them that you will hold up a note and it is their job to come up with as many combinations as possible and to write them down
9. The group that:
 - a. Has the correct number of combinations
 - b. Has written them down correctly
 - c. and has finished first **WINS!**
10. Hold up a half note and let them have at it! (If you have time, hold up the whole note or wait until the next class)
11. Ask the kids to play the combinations they know and to guess what the others may sound like!

Assessment:

- Did the groups have the correct number of combinations?
- Did they write them down correctly?
- Were they able to play the non-syncopated rhythms accurately?