

Who's That Tapping At The Window?

This folk song is perfect! There is an opportunity to add a call and response with instruments right after singing it! Then once kids know when to play and what it might sound like, they can start reading and creating!

Objectives:

- Students will practice call and response improvisations
- Students will echo simple rhythmic patterns by saying and clapping them
- Students will create their own rhythmic patterns to say and clap
- Students will write down their rhythmic patterns

Methods:

1. Look over the song "Who's That Tapping At The Window?"
(Click <http://www.bethsnotesplus.com/2014/12/whos-that-tapping-at-window.html> for the sheet music)
2. Sing song with children, then clap a simple 8 beat rhythm and have them clap back the same rhythm. Sing and clap rhythms as many times as you like.
3. Then have students come up one at a time to be the leader.

(You can repeat this as many times as you need to until you feel the students have had enough practice. Because this doesn't take that much time, you could start every class with this as a warm up)

4. Next, say the rhythm in colors, ti's and ta's, du's and du-de's, etc...while you clap it. I start with colors because I know everyone knows their colors! Then I say the same rhythm in many ways to reiterate that it doesn't matter what you call it, it sounds a certain way.
5. Again, have students come up and create their own patterns while saying it in colors etc...
(This is also a quick way to assess if kids know how to say a rhythm, as well as clap it.)

(Again, do this for as long as you think is necessary)

6. Next, we get to the composition stage. Use your **Note Knacks** to show the color rhythms that they have been saying and show the different lengths. (Now would be a great time to do a compare and contrast lesson!)
7. Have kids create an 8 beat rhythm, then trace the blocks on sentence strips with the corresponding crayons.

(This can be done in one class or over many classes, it is up to you and how much time you want to spend on it per class.)

One of the big benefits of this lesson is that you have several 8 beat rhythms that you can use throughout the rest of the year as the resource for understanding music. Students can put them together to mix and match in any way they would like. They can add orchestrations, dynamics, tempo, etc... It will be an exploration that can cover as much as you would like! In 18 weeks, the kids will have not only learned a lot, but will also have had a lot of fun!