

Lesson Builder 1

When I think about how to pack more content into my lessons, I focus on the idea of **creating a project that can span over many classes**. In some ways we do this already, but in this case, I am starting with one thing ~ such as 1 instrument ~ and **creating many mini-lessons from it**. Each class I can do one of these mini-lessons within a short period of time! The benefits are that it allows for a variety of experiences within one class period, it allows for time between each experience so that it can sink into the mind and finally it allows us to teach those concepts that may get left behind due to time constraints.

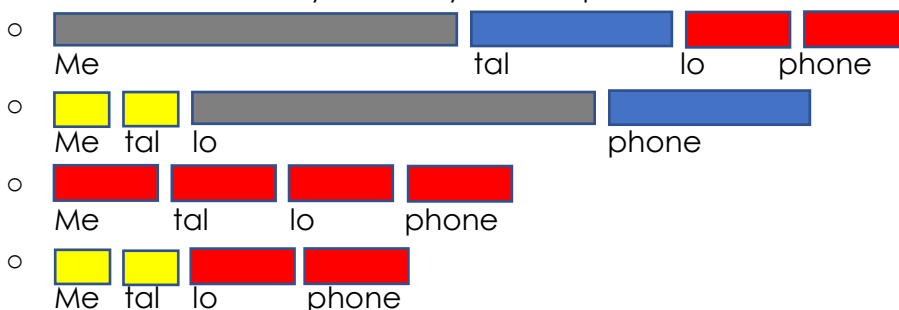
The first of these is a project centered around an instrument chosen by a student. Here is the first of many mini-lessons:

CONCEPT 1:

- One syllable = one note

SHORT ACTIVITY:

- Ask a student to choose an instrument in your room (I did this with 3rd grade)
 - Student chose a metallophone
 - The class did not know the name of it, so we named it and discussed how it is different than a xylophone (... can add mini-lesson later centered around timbre)
- How many syllables in the word metallophone?
 - 4
 - I wrote it out: me – tal – lo – phone
- I then asked kids how many notes do we need?
 - 4 ~ right! Each syllable gets a note! (I made a decision not to make them stay within a time signature frame, as I wanted them to **explore first**; however, 1 beat = 1 quarter)
- I then chose another student to create a rhythm using 4 [Note Knacks Magnets](#) ~ remember that 2 yellows or 4 terra cottas need to stay together
- These are a few of the rhythms they came up with:



- We said each rhythm as they were created. It was a lot of fun and at times, quite silly!

What I love about this lesson is that kids learn how to count while using the same word. They are not constrained by a time signature, so it can be as long or short as they would like it ~ encouraging creativity! Try it out and let me know your thoughts!