

Crazy Summer Improvisation

In thinking about how we could hear a short recap of the students' summers AND get a little rhythmic improvisation in, I created a simple 4/4 1 mm chant with the 2nd mm blank for the kids to fill in:

This crazy summer I (I M M I) | 4 beats of rest |

In those 4 beats of rest you can:

- Have kids act out an activity they did
- Say the activity rhythmically in that time:
 - Examples:
 - "swam in a pool" / I M I Z
 - "visited my grandparents" / M M I M

After each student has had a chance to share, see if they can do it right after each other without missing a beat ~ add a mm of rest in between each student, if you need to

Extensions:

- Add an 8 beat TALA (after the initial 2 mm) and have kids use body percussion to improvise a fun rhythm
 - What is "**TALA**?" It is a fun, active way to create space for as many beats as you would like. To mark the first beat, start by putting your hand in front of you with your palm pointed upward. Then put your other hand on top, palm to palm, for 1 beat. The next beat is shown by flipping your top hand palm upwards. To show the following beat, flip your top hand back over so that your palms are touching again ... and so on.
 - Check it out in action [HERE!](#)
- Have kids decide on an 8 beat rhythm after they have explored many rhythms
- Have kids work out their rhythms either by telling you in Note Knacks or in writing out the actual conventional notation
- When you are finished, students will have completed a 4 mm composition ~ the first mm is "This summer I", the second mm is what they said they did rhythmically, and the last 2 mms consist of the rhythm they decided on.
- Put all TALA rhythms together and create a class rhythmic piece
 - Decide on body percussion, tempo, and/ or dynamics