

BODY PERCUSSION

Resources:

Percussion Grid printout

Cut out of percussion cards

Body Percussion Guide - <https://fusionmusic.socialfuse.org.uk/body-percussion-2/>

Objective: To produce simple 4-beat rhythm patterns using the body or everyday objects. During this session, you will learn basic percussion techniques using your body and everyday objects.

Collaborate to create simple rhythmic patterns, using co-ordination and listening skills to keep in time with each other.

Lesson

Play “Pass the Clap” (the Mexican Wave of clapping)

- Organise pupils into a circle (either sitting or standing).
- Ask pupils what musical drum sounds can be made with their body - for example clap hands, pat chest or top of arms, tap foot, click fingers.
- Start by clapping a simple, slow 4-beat rhythm. With the pupil using their preferred method of body sound, ask them to continue the clap, each pupil sounding out one beat, going around the circle. The aim is to keep in time with the original pattern. It may help for the teacher to count out the beat pattern – one and two and three and four and ...
- Do three or four rounds of this until pupils feel confident with the rhythm.
- If feeling really confident, increase the tempo by introducing a sound on the half beat “and”. It should sound as if the pattern is moving at twice the speed.



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Composing body percussion

This can be done in groups or individually.

Distribute print outs of the percussion grid and cards.

The grid is composed of the main beats 1,2,3,4 and the half beat “and”.

Ask the pupils to create two patterns (red and yellow) by positioning the cards in the grid squares. Suggest that pupils think about silences and rests in their creation – not all of the grid boxes need to contain a sound.

Once the pupils have created their first two patterns ask each one to perform their patterns to the rest of the class.

Classroom percussion

Ask the pupils to suggest if there are any items in their classroom that could be used to make a drumming sound – for example, tapping desk or chairs, tapping pencils together, running a pencil along the ridges of a plastic cup.

Ask the pupil to choose one new classroom object sound and adapt one of their body percussion rhythms (red or yellow) to create a new one in the green grids.

Once the pupils have created their green pattern ask each one to perform their pattern to the rest of the class.

Body Percussion Sequencer (advanced)

Ask each pupil to choose their favourite rhythm from the three they have created.

All pupil are going to play their rhythm at the same time.

If all goes to plan, the resulting rhythm will be a complex pattern, much like something produced by a drum machine.

The teacher may have to count the beats to keep pupils in time.

See how many times the class can successfully repeat their combined sequences.

