

Steady Beat and Form with Bluegrass and Fiddle Tunes

By Ron Korbitz; Brookdale Elementary School; Naperville, Ill.

Grade level: K-1

Subject area focus: Music

Brief Summary:

This lesson plan will use bluegrass and traditional fiddle tunes to focus student attention on steady beat and simple AB (verse and refrain) song forms. Some of the songs will be used as originally composed, and some will use altered lyrics to make them more helpful for learning at this level. Students will utilize listening skills, singing, movement and rhythm instruments in various combinations to reinforce lesson concepts.

Goals and Objectives:

Students will develop the ability to identify steady beat and AB patterns found in a variety of traditional bluegrass songs and fiddle tunes.

Summary of Lesson:

Students will listen to "Eight More Miles to Louisville" and tap a steady beat along with the teacher. Teacher will tap the Steady Beat (S.B.) on knees during the verses and tap the S.B. on head during the refrain. At song's conclusion, teacher will question the movement of the S.B. from knees to head and guide students to AB form answer, and then explain that all of the day's music will use this form. Students will then be directed to sing the refrain (altered) of "Old Joe Clark." (see attachment #1) Students will follow song's directions during the verse and march a steady beat while singing the refrain. Teacher will then sing "Sourwood Mountain" (see attachment #2) teaching the children to sing along with the line "hey ho diddle um day." Teacher will then guide students through the dance for "Sourwood Mountain" (see attachment #3) reinforcing the AB form. Distribute rhythm sticks to half of the class and hand drums to the other half of the class (any rhythm instruments and/or clapping and tapping pattern may be substituted). Play "I Wonder How the Old Folks Are at Home" and guide the students with rhythm sticks to play on the verses and the students with drums to play on the refrain.

Evaluation & Assessment: See attachment #4

Follow-up Activities:

Similar lessons finding steady beat and identifying form could be used throughout the school year. Bluegrass songs and fiddle tunes could be used as well as other music styles. Brief statements about the origins of the music should be included as the year progresses.

Additional info, including national and/or state requirements or standards addressed:

This lesson meets the following National Standards for Music and Dance:

