



“SHAKE, RATTLE, AND ROLL:” THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MUSIC

GET READY TO ROCK! A PRE-VISIT GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

TARGET GRADE LEVEL:

Grades K-4

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

This class is designed to teach elementary school students about the four basic elements of music – rhythm, pitch, volume, and color – in order to learn how musicians have used these elements to create some of the greatest rock and roll songs ever. Students participate by singing, clapping, dancing, rocking and rolling along with recordings of upbeat and fun songs such as Bill Haley’s “Rock Around the Clock” and the Isley Brothers’ “Shout” – while they learn! Video performances of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees are used to teach students about the history of rock and roll music and help them apply analytical skills as they watch and listen.

OBJECTIVES:

As a result of this class, students will be able to

1. Use context clues to determine the meaning of new vocabulary, and create patterns with sounds.
2. Sing, clap, and dance to the rhythm and pitch of popular rock and roll songs.
3. Identify the elements of music as heard in various songs.

RELATED OHIO ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Acquisition of Vocabulary

K-3 Benchmark A

4 Benchmark A

Communication: Oral and Visual

K-2 Benchmark A, B, C

3-4 Benchmark A, B

SCIENCE

Physical Sciences

K-2 Benchmark C

3-4 Benchmark F

FINE ARTS – DANCE

Creative Expression and Communication

K-4 Benchmark A

Connections, Relationships and Applications

K-4 Benchmark A

FINE ARTS—MUSIC

Historical, Cultural and Social Contexts

K-4 Benchmark B, C

Creative Expression and Communication

K-4 Benchmark A

Analyzing and Responding

K-4 Benchmark A, B

Valuing Music/Aesthetic Reflection

K-4 Benchmark A, C

Connections, Relationships and Applications

K-4 Benchmark A



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SUGGESTED PREPARATION ACTIVITY:

REPEATING SOUND PATTERNS

Clap, pat, sing, speak, yell, whistle, or rap a short pattern for your students. Ask students to copy the pattern. Repeat the same short pattern until the majority of students correctly perform the pattern together in time with each other. Allow students to create their own patterns. Students can work in pairs or can present their patterns for the class to follow. See how many of these musical patterns you can use throughout the school day. As a class, assign different patterns of clapping and/or moving to signal routine transitions or procedures in the classroom; try using these signals instead of other cues for the rest of the day. Have students continue to explore patterns with letters, numbers or words.

EXAMPLES TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS:

NOTE: Preview all materials for appropriateness for your students.

Bo Diddley. “Bo Diddley.” *Bo Diddley*, 1958.

Bill Haley. “Rock Around the Clock.” 1954.

The Isley Brothers. “Shout.” *Shout*, 1959.

Miles Davis. “Mystery.” *Doo-Bop*, 1992.

U2. “I Will Follow.” *Boy*, 1981.

Led Zeppelin. “Whole Lotta Love.” *Led Zeppelin II*, 1969.

Free, streaming videos of most performances can be found on www.youtube.com or blip.fm

Free, streaming audio tracks of most songs can be found on www.grooveshark.com or blip.fm

GLOSSARY

Color: The element of music that describes the quality or characteristics of a sound; used to talk about the sound of different kinds of instruments (voice, piano, guitar, flute, etc.) and ways of describing them (scratchy, sweet, piercing, floating); also known as timbre

Hall of fame: A place that honors people for outstanding achievements in a profession

Harmony: Two or more different pitches (or notes) that sound at the same time: the parts of a song that accompany the melody (or tune)

Instruments: The tools musicians use to make music

Pitch: The element of music that describes the sound of notes from low to high; the frequency of sound waves

Rhythm: The element of music that describes how we make patterns in time; the duration of musical sounds

Volume: The element of music that describes the loudness or quietness of a sound; the amplitude of sound waves

Pattern: A recognizable shape or order of things

Rock and roll: A form of American music with a lively beat that began in the 1950s; this music blends blues, rhythm and blues, gospel, and country music

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