

Heather Haney
S. Gindin
4/9/07
Lesson Plan

Springtime

Activity: Making a rain stick and singing a song about rain

Grade(s): 2nd-3rd

Concepts/Goal: Melody: steps, skips, and leaps

Tempo: lively

Rhythm: steady

Objectives

Students will:

1. keep a steady beat
2. learn the song by rote
3. make a rain stick

Materials

1. Little April Shower song and lyrics by Larry Morey
2. Empty toilet paper rolls (one for each student)
3. Toothpicks (four for each student)
4. Several rolls of double-sided tape
5. Colorful construction paper
6. Elbow macaroni
7. Thumb tacks

Procedures

Preliminary:

1. The night before class, prepare the rain sticks.
2. Start by holding a piece of construction paper length-wise.
3. Fold the construction paper into a tri-fold.
4. Open the paper up and cut on the lines (there should be two lines).
5. Pile the three strips together and cut them in half. (Repeat until there are two squares for each empty toilet paper roll).
6. Put double-sided tape around one end of each empty toilet paper roll.
7. Take one square of construction paper and fold it over the taped end of the empty toilet paper roll (the paper should be tight).
8. Poke eight holes in the empty toilet paper roll with the thumb tacks. There should be two holes on each level with four levels each (see diagram).
9. Remove the thumb tacks and put the toothpicks in the holes. Make sure the toothpicks poke all the way through.
10. Put everything away in a safe place, ready to grab and go tomorrow.
11. Have a good night's sleep! (A fun thing to do is dress up for the lesson. Wear rain boots, a rain coat, and take an umbrella).

Main Content:

1. Before class begins, have Little April Shower ready to play.
2. Write the lyrics of Little April Shower on the board (or an overhead).

3. Set all of the “rain sticks” from the night before on the shelf of the blackboard.
4. As the students are entering the classroom, greet them and give them specific directions to go straight to their seats and be as quiet as they can be.
5. When everyone is quiet and seated, go over some of the words that might be difficult for them. (ie. serenade) Check to make sure that everyone knows the difficult words.
6. Begin teaching the song by rote. Teach by phrase and point out similar and different phrases. (Walk through as many times as needed).
7. Ask the students to come up to the chalkboard (one row after another) and grab a “rain stick”. Warn them to be careful with the toothpicks as they might get poked.
8. When the students are back in their seats and quiet, give them each a handful of elbow macaroni and tell them to put it inside their “rain sticks”.
9. Ask the students to come up one by one when their elbow macaroni is in their “rain stick” and get a piece of double-sided tape to put on the open end of their “rain stick”.
10. Pass out a square of construction paper to each student and ask them to put it on the open end where they just placed the double-sided tape. Make sure the construction paper is tight over the end.
11. Give the students the opportunity to test out their new instruments.
12. Calm the students down and play Little April Shower. Have the students sing along and use their rain sticks to keep the beat.

Closure

13. Play the song again and tell the students to be creative and improvise with their “rain sticks”. Tell them they can get up and dance around.
14. When the song is over, have the students put their “rain sticks” in their mailboxes to take home at the end of the day.

Assessment

1. Students should have successfully made a “rain stick”.
2. Students should have kept a steady beat with the music.
3. Ask students what meter the song was in.
4. Students should have learned the song by rote.