



5–7 mins

Objective and Musical Focus

Pulse & Rhythm;
Composing;
Performing; Body
Percussion; Reading
Music

Instruments?

No; untuned
percussion optional

Accessibility

This lesson plan is suitable for pupils with mild learning difficulties and classes that have Teacher Assistant support.

1. Warm up Activity

Forbidden Rhythm

This game can be played as a whole class, in small groups or in pairs and is also a great way of getting everybody's attention when you need it! You can watch this activity demonstrated in the Teacher Techniques video collection.

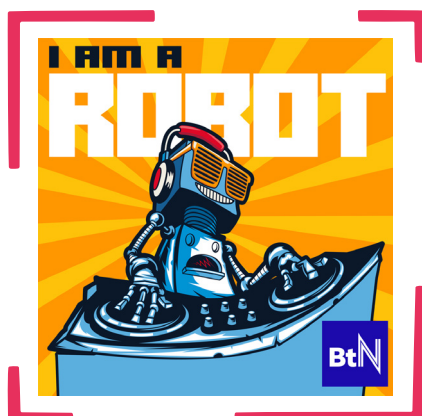
Choose one player to be the leader, this ought to be the teacher the first few times you play the game. This person claps a variety of short, simple rhythms and the rest of the class copy them straight away.

This is called 'call and response'. Try and keep a steady pulse as you go from one rhythm to the next.

The leader will choose one rhythm that will be a 'forbidden rhythm' and when the leader plays that, the rest of the class do nothing, like a game of 'Simon Says'. If somebody copies the forbidden rhythm by mistake, they are out!

After a few rounds clapping, try playing the rhythms using different parts of the body, or with musical instruments.

Extension: If the class are finding this easy, add more forbidden rhythms or maybe one rhythm means you have to do an action like putting your hands on your head, for example.





2. Song: *I am a Robot*



5 mins

Have a listen to the song *I am a Robot*.

Teach your class this repeated line from *I am a Robot*:



I am a robot

I go beep-beep-beep beep-bop

Play the song *I am a Robot* on the *Bring the Noise: Play It!* interactive tool on our website.

The rhythm of this phrase can be taught using the Kodaly (pronounced Kah-DIE) method. It gives the symbols of Western music notation associated sounds and gestures.

You can watch the Kodaly approach in practice in the Teacher Techniques video 'Teaching Rhythms'. You'll encounter Kodaly notation in more detail in the next activity in this lesson plan.



Using Kodaly's rhythm reading technique, this phrases uses two different sounds, 'ta' for single beats and ti-ti for two half-beats.

Practise singing the rhythm using Kodaly's sounds:





3. Main Activity

Body Percussion Rhythms



25 mins



Using the Kodaly approach to reading music, the aim of this activity is to get your class to compose and perform body percussion rhythms. You can complete this activity with the children in small groups, pairs or working individually.

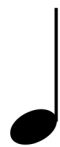
Give each group of children a piece of paper with the grid drawn like below (a full-page version of this grid is at the end of this document):



Each box in the grid represents a beat, from 1 to 8.

If the class are struggling playing the rhythm, refer to the 'Teaching Rhythms' film in our Teacher Techniques section.

Teach the class the following Kodaly rhythms:



ta - 1 beat

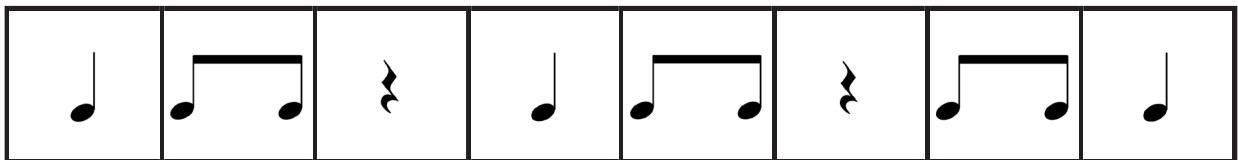


ti-ti - 1/2 beat each



'sh' - 1 beat rest

Challenge the children to put one of the symbols in every box, for example:



Once they have done this, give the groups time to practise saying the rhythms over a steady pulse. Next, ask the children to try clapping them. Once the rhythms are secure, ask the groups to compose a new way of performing their rhythm that involves other parts of the body to create an interesting body percussion rhythm.



Once each group has mastered their new rhythm, play them along to the song with each group taking it in turns to sing 'I am a robot I go beep-beep-beep beep-bop', followed by their new rhythm.

After the lyric 'This how I dance', choose a selection of groups to perform their rhythms together at the same time.

4. Troubleshooting

Make sure you allow plenty of time for the children to experiment when composing their sounds.

If your session moves onto using instruments, encourage the children to think carefully about which instruments are closest to the sounds they are trying to represent, and not just choose their favourite instrument!

5. SEND Advice

Warm up Activity

- Note when pupils are caught out, but they're not out of the game.

Main Activity

- Pupils may require the images of the giraffe, cheetah and the resting cat to understand the intended rhythm.
- You may need to bang the same rhythm on a large drum for others to follow along.



If you haven't already, check out the activities in the *I am a Robot* Part 1 and Part 2 lesson plans. Combine ideas from all three lessons to create a performance along with the track!

Curriculum Links:

Science
Maths



Key words

Body Percussion: sounds made using your body.

Kodaly: Zoltan Kodaly was a Hungarian composer who developed a new way of reading and teaching music using body movement and singing.

Lyrics: words to a song.

Pulse: a steady beat, like a ticking clock.

Rhythm: a pattern of long and short sounds.