

“Lion Sleeps Tonight” by Kathryn Finch

Objective: I can perform and improvise a simple I-IV-V chord progression on a barred instrument.

Materials: iPads (6-12), “Lion Sleeps Tonight” arrangement by Abby Blair, Boomwhackers, barred instruments, stereo, VGA Adapter, projector, speakers to hook up to iPad, beat blocks

Process:

1. Play “Lion Sleeps Tonight” arrangement in C by Abby Blair.
2. Have kids move to the music or find the steady beat.
3. Review how to play boomwhackers and divide kids into 3 groups and have them play the boomwhackers that were set up for them. (Group #1- C chord, Group #2-F chord and Group #3- G chord)
4. Ask the groups to play when you conduct them. They each get to play 4 times when you point to a group. (Play the chord progression.)
5. Once they can anticipate your pattern, turn the music on and have them play with the music. You can have them play during just the refrain or both the verse and the refrain.
6. Ask them to organize their boomwhackers in their groups and be ready to talk about what they notice about their boomwhackers. (color, pitches, other groups had other colors, etc.)
7. As each group tells you the pitch names, construct them on beat blocks. (One chord per 4 beat base) This may be a time when you want to talk about inversions as well as you manipulate the beat blocks.
8. Ask them what was the progression or pattern to the song? What was the group pattern when we played? (C, F, C, G)
9. Play the music again and have them sing and play their chord. This time you may conduct using the beat blocks set up in a chord progression.
10. Move to Garageband on iPads. (preset iPads so that the chords C, F, and G are ready to play.)

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11. Show the class how to get to garageband on the iPad (it's helpful to project an iPad through a projector and plug the iPad into speakers if you can or use Reflector to mirror the iPad on the projector).



12. Choose the smart guitar feature. Have them choose the acoustic guitar.
13. You may have to let them “play” for a moment. They will want to and it may help with focus later if you just let them play for a few minutes.
14. Play on the beat 4 times each chord. Does it sound like the song?
15. Play with the music.
16. Depending on how many iPads you have, have them try playing with the music the chord progression on the garageband app. (If you have a few, have some play the boomwhackers and others sing and rotate through the iPad, boomwhacker and singing stations.)
17. Review briefly what a chord is and what the root of the chord means.
18. Sit behind a xylophone and ask them to tell you again what was the first chord they played. (C) How many times? (4) Walk them through the entire chord progression. As they tell you the progression, build on beat blocks.

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19. What could we do to make this more rock and roll? When you played the Garageband App, how did you vary the chord progression? (add more notes with a button change, changed the rhythm, etc.)
20. Show them using the beat blocks how to add more notes. (harmonize)
21. Set up the room in three sections. (ipads, boomwhackers, and barred instruments.)
22. Tell them they will rotate through all centers.
23. iPads can have headphones this time if you want. They will be able to hear themselves better and that will make them happier. Also challenge them to find a different rhythm to play when going through the chord progression.
24. Boomwhackers will need to be divided up by chords. Give the group all the boomwhackers to make up the three chords. A visual will most likely be needed. Have the beat block chords there as a reference so they can build the chords with boomwhackers.
25. Barred instruments will need beat block chord stacks for a visuals. Encourage them to play the root a few times so they get the hang of the progression and then ask them to add in some rhythm and harmony using the beat blocks.