



FUN WITH DRUMS



Rhythms of the Family LESSON PLAN

This video explores complementary rhythms by experiencing the day-to-day schedules of people within a family and turning each of those schedules into a beat pattern. When the pattern of each family member is combined together, the combination becomes a layered rhythm ensemble! Defining, building, and playing complementary rhythms should be the focus for this lesson. Alternative items can be used as substitutes for percussion instruments if students do not have instruments available.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/IWqG1Y64oOU>

Materials Recommended/Special Instructions

It is recommended that students have access to a variety of percussion instruments including *rainstick*, *djembe*, *rhythm sticks*, and *tongue drum*.

A variety of alternate "everyday" items can be used as substitutes for percussion instruments if no instruments are available.

Objectives / Music Standards Achieved:

Objective:

To identify musical beat and rhythm patterns that exist in the natural world, and recognize these as music.

To build and explore the use of complementary rhythms through the use of varying percussion instruments and kit drum.

Improvise beat patterns that can layer over the rhythms played by a kit drum.

Music Standards:

- 1. Performing: Analyze:** Analyze the structure and context of varied musical works and their implications for performance.
- 2. Connecting: Connect #11:** Relate musical ideas and works with varied context to deepen understanding

Key Vocabulary

Complementary rhythm: The layering of separate beat patterns that fit together to create a percussion ensemble.

Improvise: To make music in the moment.

Rhythms of the Family Lesson Sequence

Opener

Have students take a brief moment to close their eyes, put their hands over their hearts, and notice the beating of their hearts. Notice how their hearts beat, even without them having to do anything at all. This beat in their chest is a naturally occurring rhythm. Tell your students that their heartbeats are the rhythm of their lives, just like rhythm is the heartbeat of the music.

Guided Practice - Sequence

- Watch the video *Rhythms of the Family* hosted by Julia Kamanda.
- Students are invited to follow the prompts, select one part, and play the individual rhythm that they have selected.
- The group can be broken up into smaller sections, with each groups taking one beat pattern. The sections play simultaneously, creating a complementary rhythm pattern.

Independent Practice and Application

Students are encouraged to play along with the kit drum featured in the video, improvising their own beat patterns over the rhythm that is played..

Informal or Formal Assessment

- Assessment is based on the class's ability to learn and play back the individual beat patterns that are introduced during the video, and play them all simultaneously as a group.
- Questions for further discussion
 - How many natural patterns in the world can we list? *Answers can include: seasons, day/night, months of the year (also in a 12-beat pattern), 24 hours in a day, heartbeat, etc.*
 - Where else can we find complementary rhythms in the world around us?
 - What do you think the beat pattern of *your* day sounds like? Students can demonstrate on instruments or using body percussion. Does your beat pattern sound the same or different from the other members of your family?