

Create Your Own Song! with Kasey

Instructions:

Check out this sample lesson plan and activity ideas for inspiration, ideas, and more. Feel free to edit, delete, or highlight to make it your own! These notes are yours to customize. They will not be published anywhere such that you're held to teaching exactly what's here.

Topics

Singing, Songwriting and Harmony

Lesson Ideas

Lesson Title

Singer/Songwriter Series: Singing, Songwriting, and Harmony

Duration

1 hour

Lesson Plan

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Welcome and Introduction to the Singer/Songwriter Series.
- Brief overview of what singing, songwriting, and harmony entail.

2. Warm-Up Exercise (10 minutes)

- Begin with vocal warm-ups to prepare the voice for singing.
- Practice breathing exercises to enhance vocal control.

3. Singing Fundamentals (10 minutes)

- Discuss the basics of singing: pitch, tone, and rhythm.

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- Sing a simple song together to apply these concepts.

4. Introduction to Songwriting (15 minutes)

- Briefly explain the process of songwriting: brainstorming, lyrics, and melody.
- Group activity: brainstorm ideas for a song topic.
- Develop a chorus together as a class.

5. Exploring Harmony (15 minutes)

- Define harmony and its role in music.
- Group exercise: split into small groups and practice singing a simple harmony with a familiar tune.

6. Wrap-Up and Sharing (5 minutes)

- Recap what was learned during the session.
- Invite volunteers to share their songwriting ideas or harmony attempts.

Materials List

- Whiteboard and markers
- Copies of song lyrics (simple song for group singing)
- Musical instruments (optional, such as keyboard or guitar)
- Paper and pencils for songwriting exercise

Adaptations for Different Ages

- Younger children: Focus more on singing simple songs and basic rhythm exercises. Simplify the songwriting process to include drawing or storytelling.
- Older children: Encourage more complex songwriting techniques and the addition of musical instruments for harmony practice.

Movement Break

- "Silly Sing-Along": Incorporate a movement break by singing a fun, high-energy song and encouraging playful movements like dancing or clapping to the rhythm.

Bonus Activities

- Create a class songbook: Have each student contribute a short song or verse by the end of the series.

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- Harmony Challenge: Pair students and have them create harmonies for short sections of popular songs.
- Record a Class Song: Use a smartphone or tablet to record the class's original song created during the session. Share the recording with parents.

Series Outline

1. ****Week 1: Introduction to Singing****
 - Vocal warm-up exercises and breathing techniques
 - Introduction to different music genres and styles
 - Listening session with examples of famous singers and their distinctive styles
2. ****Week 2: Discovering Your Voice****
 - Identifying vocal types: soprano, alto, tenor, bass
 - Experimenting with vocal ranges and pitches
 - Group activity: Encourage students to sing lines from different songs
3. ****Week 3: Basics of Songwriting****
 - Structure of a song: verse, chorus, bridge
 - Brainstorming session: Creating simple lyrics based on a theme
 - Introduction to rhyme schemes and rhythmic patterns
4. ****Week 4: Understanding Melody****
 - Exploring pitch: Highs and lows in songs
 - Creating simple melodies with handheld instruments (e.g., xylophone, recorder)
 - Melodic interpretation: Discuss how melodies convey emotion
5. ****Week 5: Rhythm and Beat****
 - Different time signatures and their impacts on music
 - Hands-on activity: Experimenting with percussion instruments
 - Creating rhythmic patterns for a group jam session
6. ****Week 6: Harmony and Vocal Layers****
 - Introduction to harmony and its role in music
 - Singing in rounds and canons with familiar songs
 - Group activity: Students create a simple harmony to accompany a melody

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7. **Week 7: Lyrics and Storytelling**

- Elements of storytelling through song
- Workshop: Transform a short story into song lyrics
- Analyzing popular songs for their lyrical content

8. **Week 8: Performance Techniques**

- Stage presence and overcoming performance anxiety
- Microphone techniques and vocal projection
- Mock performance: Students perform a short piece for the class

9. **Week 9: Recording and Production Basics**

- Introduction to recording equipment and software
- Hands-on activity: Record a simple song or vocals
- Collaborative project: Students work in pairs to produce a short song

10. **Week 10: Showcase and Reflection**

- Final performance: Students present their original songs
- Reflection session: Discuss what they have learned and enjoyed
- Certificate ceremony: Recognize students' achievements and encourage future exploration in music

For additional support, reference this [experience outline template](#) which includes tips and prompts to help you develop and lead an excellent Grasshopper Kids experience.

Note: This lesson plan outline was drafted by Hopper. If you would like to see different results, you can [submit another idea](#), or text us with feedback so we can work to make the algorithm better. We built this tool to help save you time in bringing more kids enrichment experience ideas to life!

