

# **Noodle Drumming**

## **Year 3**

### **Spring 1**

## **Unit Overview**

### **Lesson One - An Introduction to Noodle Drumming**

- Play the 'Example Video' for the class to see how Noodle Drumming works. They should notice that the children play the Pool Noodles in time with the music by following the animation on screen.
- Read the instructions on the Noodle Drum Page for clarification.
- Play the 'Levitating' video. This is a simple introduction/starter song for the children to play along with.
- Hand out a pair of Pool Noodles to 5 children. The rest of the class can either use a small set of noodles as shown on the screen, or their hands. When using hands the children should clap when the red X hits its target and tap their legs when the pink sticks hit their target. The children must tap their legs lightly to avoid redness on their skin! They can always tap the chair to avoid this happening.
- Once the first group of 5 have had a go, pass the Noodle around so everyone gets at least one go on the Noodle Drums.
- At the end of the carousel, choose a Super Group to show the class how it's done! I'm positive you will have found at least 5 children who have stood out. Maybe more!
- Show the video 'Believer' and ask the children to have a go with tapping out the rhythm in preparation for the next lesson.

### **Lesson Two - Believer and A Little Bit of Love**

- To start the lesson, warm up by playing Levitating and letting the children mark out the beats with claps and taps.
- Hand out sets of Noodle Drums to let children have a go.
- Play 'Believer' and once again, allow children to have a go at Noodle Drumming while the rest of the class mark it out. Notice that in this song stamps and jumps have been added.
- Play 'A Little Bit of Love' and once again carousel the noodles.
- Pick a Super Group for both songs to perform at the end.

### **Lesson Three - In The Air Tonight**

- This song and its accompanying rhythm pattern is a level up from the previous lessons. Make the children aware that they need to be really switched on today!
- The first riff is a very famous drum fill that was made even more popular by a drumming Gorilla! If you have an opportunity, show the children the Cadbury's advert on YouTube. It amplifies the emotional feel of being free and let loose to strike out a perfect beat with the music.
- Let the children watch the Noodle Version from 45 seconds in and they will hear and see the famous beat that the Gorilla plays. This is a real challenge so let children have a go with mini noodles or their hands and then start to pick certain children to play the big noodles.
- Allow each member of the class to have a turn and once again choose a Super Group at the end of the lesson.
- To finish the lesson play the children the 'Universe' video. Here I play the Noodles and they simply follow along with my beat.

## **Lesson Four - Noodle Drumming - Group Work**

- In this lesson the children will learn to play Noodle Drumming along to a song called 'Animal'.
- To prepare, play the song Universe and allow each child to have a go with the video. They can play in small groups, one group at a time, or if you have enough Noodles, in a larger group.
- Once you have had a go at Universe move onto 'Animal'. Show the children 'Animal - All Parts' and ask them to follow ONE of the colour groups.
- The difference here is that the three groups are playing different rhythm patterns at the same time. This is much more of a challenge as it means the child has to focus entirely on their own rhythm and not be put off by other groups playing another pattern. This is a great test of the child's growing musicianship.
- Split the class into three groups - Blue, Turquoise and Pink. Group 1 - Blue has a go with their rhythm first. Followed by Group 2 - Turquoise, and finally Group 3 - Pink. Have a few turns at one group at a time so they feel happy with their rhythm.
- Now, invite one child at a time to play their groups part on their own. This enhances the classes understanding of each rhythm.
- To finish the lesson ask a child from each group to play their rhythm with the 'All Parts' video. This will gently prepare the class for what they are all going to try in the next lesson! It is tricky so after the 3 children have had a go, carry out a short evaluation and discussion of what the children need to focus on in the next lesson to play successfully.

## **Lesson Five - Group Layering**

- In this lesson the class will layer their three parts together.
- Let each group practice their part with the separate videos first, to remind each child how their drum part looks and sounds.
- Next, invite three new children to have a go all together.
- As the lesson evolves increase the group sizes. So maybe, 2 children per group. And then 3 children per group.
- If you have 30 Noodle Drums Sticks available (Very Brave!) you could have 15 players playing at once, so three groups of 5! I wouldn't push past this number as you need to be able to see which children are keeping in time!
- At the end of the lesson evaluate and discuss the challenges involved in group layering.

## **Lesson Six - Evaluation and Performance**

- To finish the unit, allow the children the opportunity to play a song of their choice from the six songs they have practiced. You may have lots going for the same song and that's fine. Use as many Noodles as you can at once!
- See if you can find a Super Group for each song.
- You may think about creating a performance for an assembly in schools or for parents if you feel they have created a strong set of performances. Its a fantastic way to showcase what the children have been learning and audiences love seeing and hearing the results of all the children's work.