

African Polyrythms

Students will learn and recite a four part polyrhythmic chart that mimics the polyrhythmic style of West African Music

Rationale: If we translate the rhythms into words, just like they do in Africa, the students will be able to remember them and perform them. We'll recite words of different syllable combinations and stresses to add energy to the chant. The words we'll use will be facts the students should remember, foods, resources, musical instruments, and types of music.

Objectives

Students will learn to play and hear rhythms. Students will learn to play and hear music forms. Students will learn manipulate traditional and innovative forms of music. Students will sing and perform alone and with others. Students will learn of music from other cultures. Students will compare the music of their own culture with the music of other cultures. Students will learn the place of music in history. Students will work cooperatively. Students will exercise interpersonal skills. Students will reflect on the personal and emotional impact of the music, its aesthetic qualities. Students will show leadership. Students will participate in class discussions of music and culture. Students will work as a community to create music. Students will share materials and help one another. Students will seek help from others.

Materials

Rhythm Chart

Ashiko drum

Handmade drums and other instruments

Procedure

1. Divide the class into four groups.
2. Simple steady beat on the ashiko.
3. Teach each rhythm part to the whole group.
4. Perform two rhythms at once, then three, then all four
5. Perform each rhythm on the drums.
6. Perform each part with body percussion.

For performance;

Start with a student explaining the polyrhythms concept.
Recite each rhythm alone with the ashiko, then combine them together.
After the full four part chant finishes its 4th go through, the kids should immediately switch to drumming their parts and not speaking them. They should play it on their drums 4 times and then perform it on body percussion parts, 4 times. Return to using words.

Special notes:

Explain polyrhythms and the concept of meter.
Use varying rhythms to play the four parts.

Assessment: Students will perform the rhythms with words, body percussion, and drums in class with reasonable accuracy.

Students will perform for their parents.

Students will self reflect on their performance.