

Surviving a Year with
Hand Drums and Rhythm Sticks
2018 IMEA



Professional Development Conference

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Northside ISD, San Antonio, TX

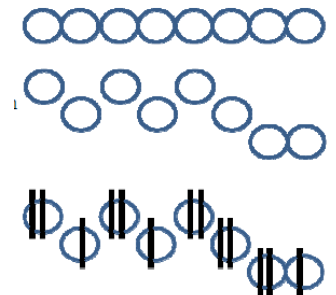
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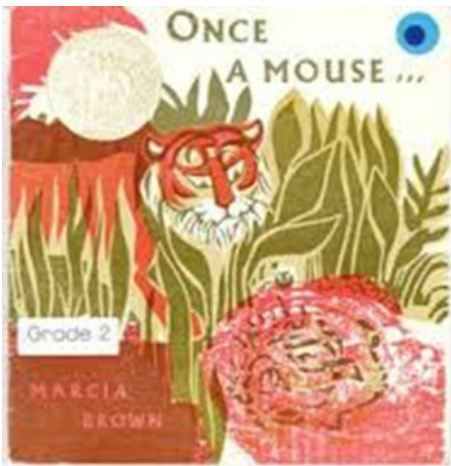
Travel Song

Michael Vasquez



- Learn the contour of the melody by copying the body percussion of the teacher.
So—Clap, Mi—Pat, Do—Stamp
- Travel through space at the sound of the hand drum while exploring the space around you as you walk.
- (Notice the walls, notice the smiles, notice the clothes)
- Change levels while traveling to match the words “high” and “low”. Shake hands with a partner and stand toe to toe at the end of the song.
- Perform the body percussion with your partner.
- Travel with your partner and stand toe to toe with another set at the end of the song.
- Perform the body percussion as a group.
- Each group takes a set of eight hand drums and arranges them in a line.
- Use the body percussion levels to discover which drums should be raised or lowered. (Keep in mind this is a rough translation of the notation. You could add spaced out lines to make it a more authentic staff).
- Tap through the drum contour to the steady pulse. Work together to decipher which drums have single sounds versus two sounds on a beat.
- Place rhythm sticks on top of the drums to transcribe the rhythm.
- Clap the notated rhythm.
- Sing through the correct solfège.





Once a Mouse...
An Ancient Indian Fable
By Marcia Brown

Something Else is Here

Michael Vasquez

Rhythm Sticks 1

Hand Drum 2

A mouse a mouse, a mouse, is in the jun-gle

5

RS 1

HD 2

care-ful you could be in dan-ger care-ful you could be in dan-ger care-ful you could be in dan-ger

8

RS 1

HD 2

some - thing else is here.

1. A mouse...
2. A cat...
3. A dog...
4. A tiger...
5. A mouse...

- Read through the story. (The general sense is that the creature gets bigger each time until he gets too proud and becomes a mouse again)
- Learn the poem through imitation. For the first line, fill in each rest with a single snap. Look in different directions with a fearful stare each time you say “careful”, “someone”, and “here”. You can also add a snap on these words to double the accented notes.
- Each animal verse should get louder as the animal grows and softer when it returns to the mouse.
- Transfer the poem to clapping.
- Divide into two groups: poem group and fearful onlookers. Perform parts together.
- Transfer the poem to hand drums and the onlookers to rhythm sticks.
- Pair up in small groups and add movement.
 - ◊ Poem group adds level changes when playing
 - ◊ Onlookers travel when they play, but end up toe to toe with their partners.
- For a larger performance, different groups can be assigned different animals in the progression. Use the poem as a repeated A section to create a grand rondo form.



Los Machetes by Mariachi Los Toritos — Discover Mexico: Rancheras, Mariachi and Folk Tunes

Fear not! It is not a real weapon. However, this traditional dance from Mexico is performed with real blades and is thrilling to watch as the blades unleash sparks around the dancer's bodies when they are clashed together. The style of this dance contains heavy Spanish influences and involves tall standing postures with significant flare in the turning of the dancers gaze.

Dance Outline for Rhythm Sticks

- Form concentric circles with each person partnered up with someone in the opposite circle.
- Walk counter clockwise around the circle with sticks behind your back. (16 counts)
- Turn and walk back to your starting spot while clashing your sticks in the air. (16 counts)
- Machete clashes (4 times)



◇ Strike (with partner), under the leg, strike, under the opposite leg, strike, behind, clash your own machetes three times.

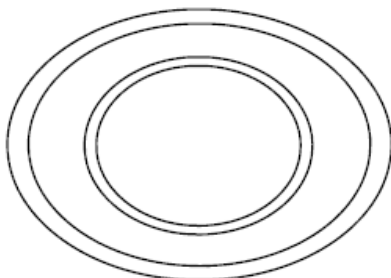
Dance Outline for Hand Drums

- Form concentric circles with each person partnered up with someone in the opposite circle.
- Walk counter clockwise around the circle holding a single hand drum between you and your partner. (16 counts).
- Turn and shuffle (Right, left, right/ Left, right, left) clockwise while still holding the hand drum between you and your partner. The drum should naturally move forward and back when you change the foot you start with each time. (16 counts)
- Drum patterns (4 times)
 - ◇ Tap, leg, tap, leg, tap, clap partners hand, tap three times (4 times)
- Walk one circle while holding onto the drum then tap your drum three times (4 times)

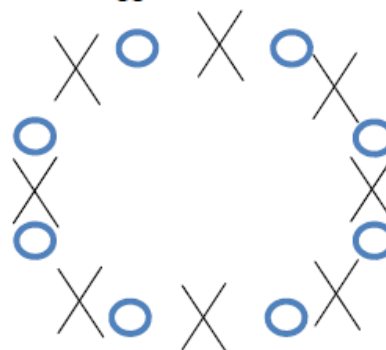


Beefed up Performance!!!

Concentric Circles



Stagger the Instruments



When the drums shuffle hold the instrument up high and let the sticks run through. This will take much more practice.