EXPLORING MUSIC GENRES
THROUGH PROJECT BASED LEARNING

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Link to Slides

Session Goals:

- Where to find genre resources on MusicplayOnline.
- Explore ways to guide students in discovering musical genres, understanding the elements of music, and connecting music to emotions through project–based learning.
- Strategies to manage time and other challenges of project–based learning in a specialist classroom setting.

How to Find Genre Resources:

- Use the search bar and type in "Genres of Music".
- Select Units and filter Listening Units, then click on Genres of Music.

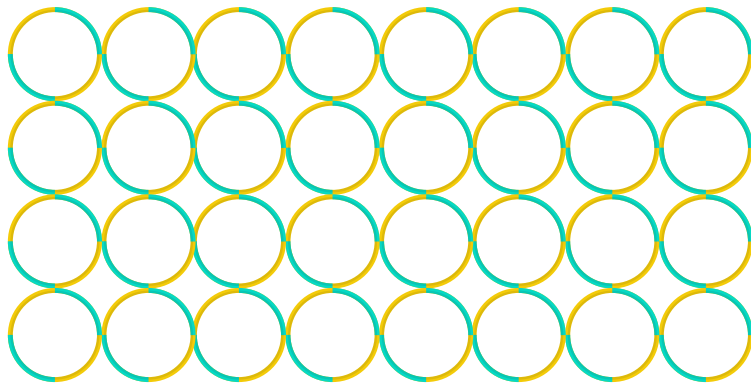### Active Music Listening Activities:

Music Grid Steady Beat:

Concept Focus: Steady Beat
What You Need: 4 x 8 Grid
Possible Materials:

- Agility hoops
- Rubber Sit Spots
- Painters Tape

Jumping Pattern:
**FRONT RIGHT RIGHT LEFT LEFT
FRONT RIGHT RIGHT LEFT LEFT**

Teaching Process:

- Say the pattern aloud and repeat it, using a drum to keep a steady beat.
- Split the class into two groups, one on each side of the grid.
- Invite a student to demonstrate the pattern for the class.
- Have each group take a turn trying the pattern individually.
- Try the pattern again with both groups performing together, accompanied by the drum.
- Try it with music from a variety of genres.

Song Choices:

- Sky Full of Stars – Coldplay (Musicplay Arrangement)
- Someday – One Republic
- It's Raining Tacos– Parry Gripp
- Now or Never – Kendrick Lamar
- Noisestorm – Crab Rave

<u>Tap and Grab Game:</u>

<u>Game Instructions:</u> Students play witåh a partner, placing a beanbag between them. They take turns tapping the beanbag with an open hand and across their chest to keep the beat. Once the rhythm is secure, if one student picks up the beanbag, and the other taps the beat with a closed hand. If a student misses a beat or opens their hand, they restart. Challenge students to see how many beats they can keep going! Change the tempo or place the beanbag on a drum for variety.

Genres of Music – Unit

<u>Genres of Music Brainstorm:</u>
- Have students name music genres they enjoy at home and list them on the board or chart paper.
- Combine all suggestions into one list and ask if any genres are missing.
- Do the activity with each class, create a master list, and discuss the diversity of musical tastes.

<u>Genre Guessing Game – Video:</u>
- Play the video, pausing after each musical example.
- Students work in small groups or independently.
- They write their guess on a whiteboard or paper.
- After sharing answers, continue the video to check answers.
- Students keep track of their correct answers.

<u>Elements of Music Search:</u>
- Make copies of the "Elements of Music Search" worksheet.
- Print and cut the definitions. Place the definitions around your classroom.
- Students walk around the room, finding the definition and writing it on their worksheet.
- When complete, discuss the definitions.

<u>Genre Specific Slideshows and Playlists</u>
- We plan to continue to grow this unit!
- Each section has an outline of the history, influence, and musical elements of a specific genre.
- You can use these outlines to help guide students through the Song Analysis activity.
- Use the school safe playlist for easy song selections.

<u>Song Analysis:</u>
- We apply the "Elements of Music" concepts to some listening examples.
- I print this out double-sided.
- Checklist option available.
- First time we do this as a class, second time in small groups.
- For listening examples, I try to select two contrasting styles, something older, and something more modern that the students should recognize.

Western Art/Classical	Reggae	EDM
Pop	Hip-Hop	Blues
Soul	Country	Latin
Folk	Rock	Jazz

School Safe Playlist

Musicplay ONLINE

Genres of Music - Projects

Projects include the following:
- Detailed teaching notes
- Printable Worksheets
- Project Checklists
- Slideshow options
- Student examples
- Rubrics

Challenges:
- Time Constraints
- Differentiation
- Resources and Equipment
- Classroom Management
- Assessment and Feedback

Unpack the Track:
- This project is a personal music analysis where students select a song and explore its key musical and contextual elements.
- Students will provide the song's title, artist, and genre, explain their personal connection to the genre, and identify the instruments and voice types used.
- They will analyze musical elements such as tempo, dynamics, rhythm, melody, and form, and interpret the song's lyrics or emotional impact.
- Lastly, students will research and share three interesting facts about the artist to deepen their understanding of the music's background.

Exploring Genres of Music:
- In this project, students will research a musical genre and present their findings in a slide or worksheet format.
- They will begin by introducing the genre and then explain where and how the genre originated.
- Students will identify three influential artists from the genre.
- They will describe key musical elements such as rhythm, tempo, melody, harmony, instruments, vocal styles, and song structure.
- The project also asks students to explain how the genre has influenced people, fashion, or culture.
- Lastly, they will share a school-appropriate example of a song from the genre, including the song title and artist.

Tracks of Me:
- In this project, students will explore how music impacts everyday life by selecting a real-life scenario from a provided list—or creating their own.
- They will then choose a school-appropriate song that fits the chosen scenario and explain in a few sentences why it's a good match.
- Students will also include the song's title, artist, and genre.
- There is a slideshow or worksheet format available with additional reflection questions.

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