

Ukulele Fun

Denise Gagne, 2020


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Ukulele Fun in the Elementary Music Class

Denise Gagne, 2020

1

Sizes of Ukuleles



SOPRANO CONCERT TENOR BARITONE

2

Sizes of Ukuleles

Soprano 21" - least expensive, needs less space \$

Concert sized 23" - for kids with big hands, easier to play \$\$.

Tenor 26" - for kids with big hands, easier to play \$\$\$.

Baritone 30" - is tuned like the first 4 strings of the guitar so chords are like part of a guitar chord. Nice size for kids to play. BUT - kids will need to know that on YouTube they need to search for guitar songs - not ukulele songs to play along with. \$\$\$\$

3

Choosing a Ukulele for school

If at all possible, test them in-person.
Tune them.
Go back the next day to see how well they stayed in tune.

If you can't go in person, ask a store rep to do this, and send a video before and after - or do a zoom with the store rep.

It's essential to have a ukulele that stays in tune.

Look for quality tuning pegs. NEVER buy a student ukulele with wooden tuning pegs. Aquila strings are good.

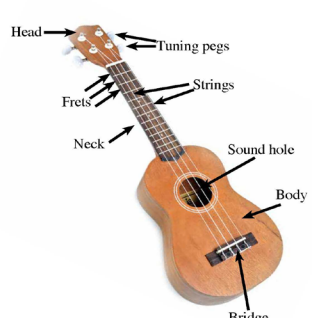
4

Who gets to Play Ukuleles

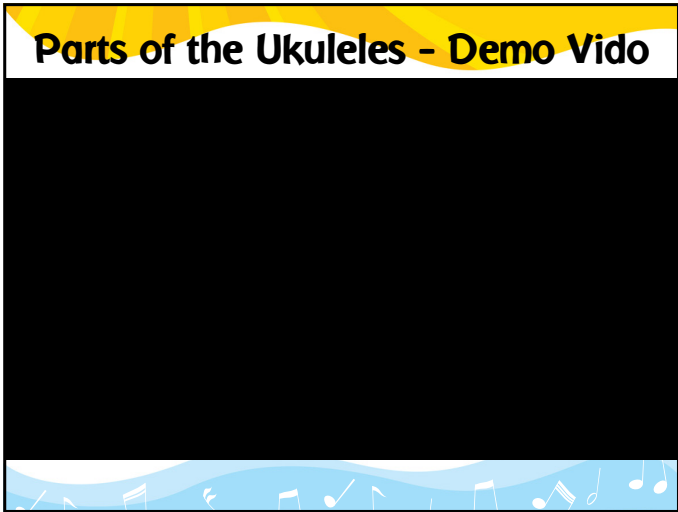
- Need to disinfect before rotating
- solution with at least 70% alcohol
- can't use with back to back classes
- One class AM and one class PM
- Classes get them for a month, rotate
 - Give priority to older kids

[LINK to NAFME GUIDELINES](#)

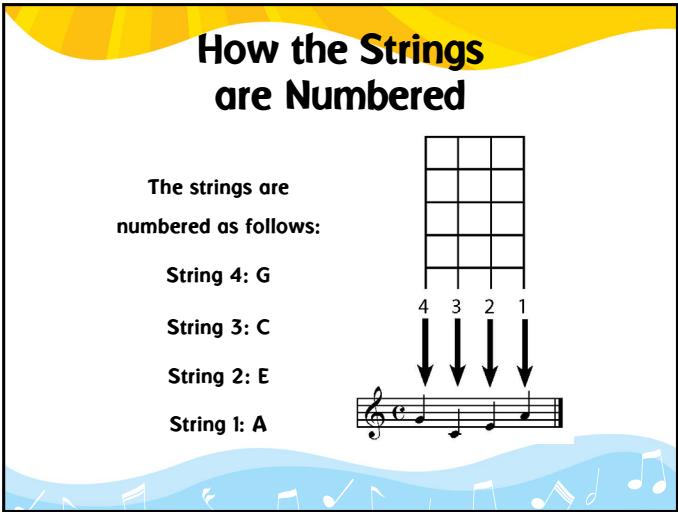
Parts of the Ukulele



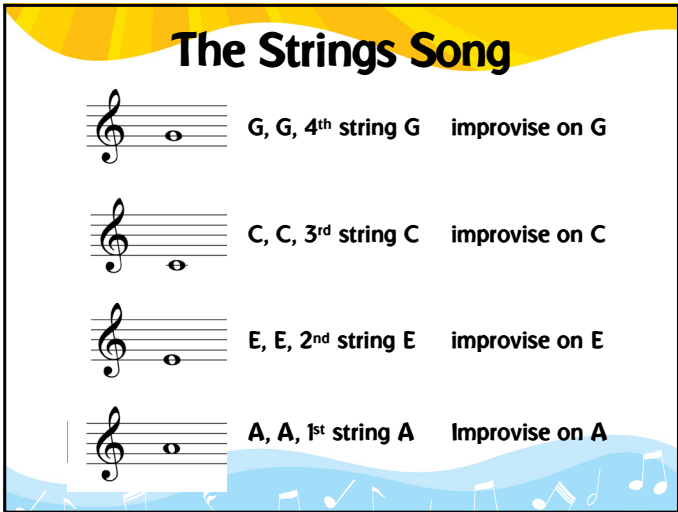
I'll say the parts, then you tap them.
On the repeat, I'll ask you to find the part and tap it.



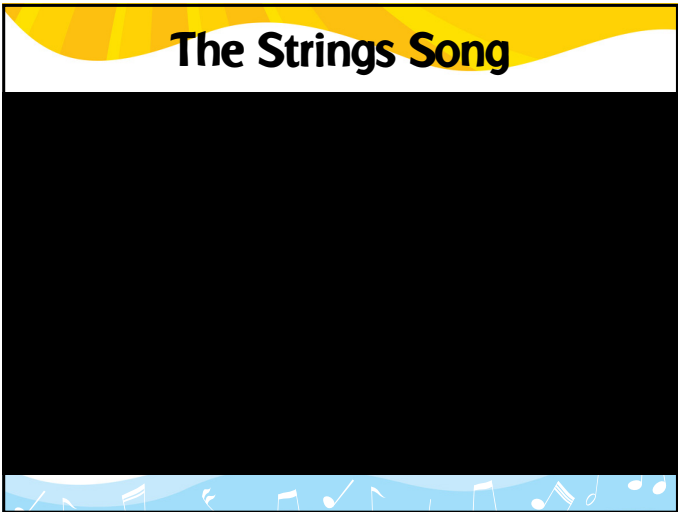
7 [Link to Ukulele Unit](#)



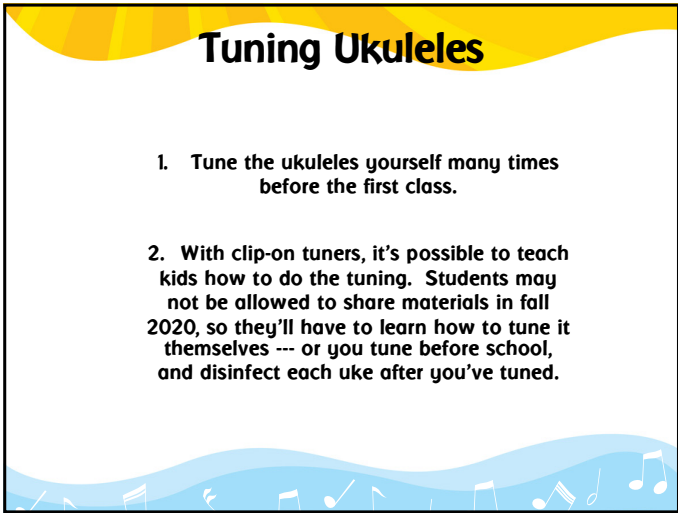
8



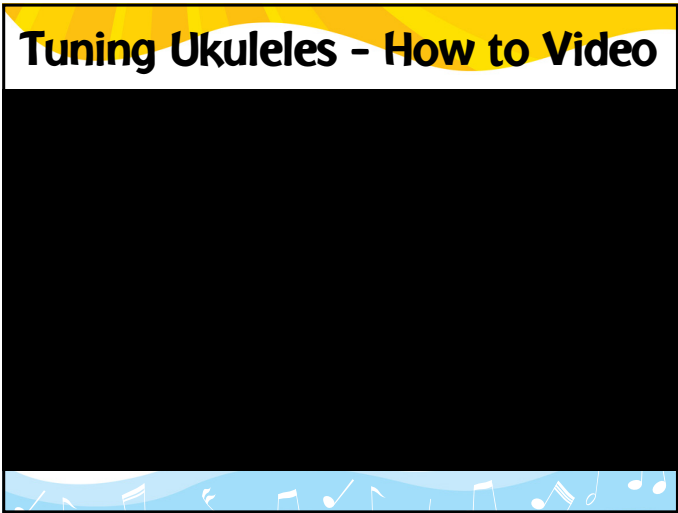
9



10 [Link to Ukulele Unit](#)



11

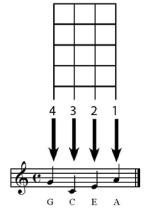


12 [Link to Ukulele Unit](#)

Tuning Ukuleles

- Use a tuner app or play a G on a piano (or the ukulele tuner found at www.musicplayonline.com).
- For easy tuning start at the G with a tuner and move up.
- The melody will sound like "My dog has fleas."
- Always loosen the string and then tighten it up until it is in tune.
- Students should never touch the tuning pegs after the teacher has tuned the ukulele. Make music!

The strings are tuned as follows:
String 4: G
String 3: C
String 2: E
String 1: A



13

Left Handed Players

If it's possible, play "right-handed"

Both hands are used

Left hand may have the "harder" job giving lefties an advantage

14

Left Handed Players

It will be easier to learn songs from YouTube tutorials

It's extremely rare for violin teachers to adapt for lefties.

If lefties feel really uncomfortable, switch the top and bottom strings.
Paul McCartney plays left handed bass.

15

Playing Position - Sitting

- Sit up straight with your feet flat on the floor and your shoulders relaxed.
- If the ukulele is large enough, rest the ukulele on your right leg.
- If the ukulele is too small to rest on your leg, hold it against your ribcage with your right forearm.

16

Playing Position - Standing

Standing

- Press the ukulele against your ribcage with your right forearm to keep the uke in place.

Use a strap

- Some players like to use a strap to keep the ukulele in place.

17

Numbering of Left Hand Fingers



18

Left Hand Fingers

The Left Hand

- The fingers of your left hand are numbered 1-2-3-4
- The left thumb goes on the back of the ukulele neck
- Press the strings using the tips of your fingers in the fret

19

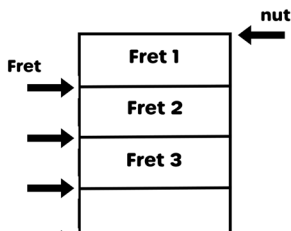
Left Hand Finger Practice

20

[Link to Ukulele Unit](#)

Chord Diagrams

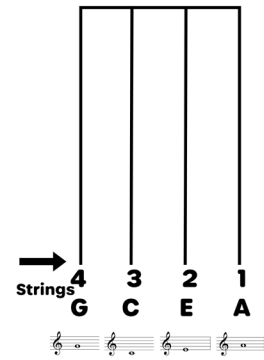
- The horizontal lines show the frets.



21

Chord Diagrams

- The vertical lines show the strings.

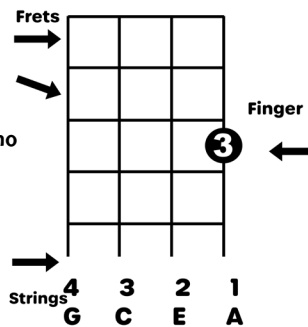


22

Chord Charts

Say ~ Kids Echo

- Finger 3
- Fret 3
- String 1



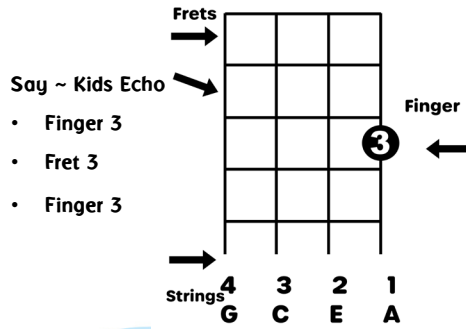
23

Teaching Chords Video

24

[Link to Ukulele Unit](#)

Chord Charts



25

Teaching Chord Demo

26

[Link to Ukulele Unit](#)

Strumming

- Strum with thumb or with pointer finger
- Some players like to use a felt pick.
- Advanced players use all fingers



27

Strumming

- Strum all 4 strings in a smooth downward motion.
- Keep a steady beat as you strum.
- The “sweet spot” is where the neck meets the body.

28

Strumming Demo Video

29

[Link to Ukulele Unit](#)

Strumming Pattern Practice

Try some different strumming patterns on a C chord. The letter d is for a down strum and u is for an up strum.

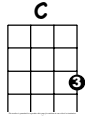
1. d d d d
2. d u d u d u
3. d d u d du
4. d u d d u d
5. d d d u d u

When you are playing a song, choose a strumming pattern that suits the style of the music.

30

Teaching Songs

- Start with one chord songs
- Teach or review the chord as follows:
- You say and the students echo Finger 3 (finger 3) Fret 3 (fret 3) String 1 (string 1)
- [Musicplayonline](https://musicplayonline.com) has 16 one chord songs!



(a teacher at Chicago Artie and Denise shared this – I don't remember your name, so if it's you, let me know and I'll give you credit for the idea. Words SO well!)

31

1. Little Tommy Tinker

Intro 2 bars

C

1st time unison, 2nd and 3rd time as round

Lit-tle Tom-my Tin-ker sat up-on a clink-er. He be-gan to cry.

Ma! Ma! Poor lit-tle in-no-cent guy.

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

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32



33

2. Johnny One Hammer

Intro 2 bars

C

John-ny plays with one ham-mer, one ham-mer, one ham-mer.

John-ny plays with one ham-mer, then he plays with two.

2. Johnny plays with two hammers...
3. Johnny plays with three hammers...
4. Johnny plays with four hammers...
5. Johnny plays with five hammers...
Then he takes a rest.

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34

4. Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Intro 2 bars

C G7 C

Row, row, row your boat, gent-ly down the stream.
Row, row, row your boat, gent-ly down the stream.

Merri-ly, merri-ly, merri-ly, merri-ly, life is but a dream.
Ho-ho-ho, ha-ha-ha, Fooled you! I'm a submarine!
Throw your teach-er o-ver board and lis-ten to her scream!

https://musicplayonline.com/?s=row+your+boat&meter_stat=

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35



36

Introduce Pop Songs

- Start with one chord songs
- Musicplayonline has links to 60 pop songs

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

37 Link to Ukulele Unit

One Chord Pop Songs - Link to YT from Ukulele Section - Coconut Song



38

5. Adieu My Comrades

Intro 8 bars

F

A - dieu to my com - rades for a - while we must part. And
Our ship is well rigged and she's read - y to sail. Our
like - wise the las - sie who's sto - len my heart. I am
crew they are anx - ious to fol - low the whale. Where the
bound out for Green - land and read - y to sail. In
ice - bergs do float and the storm - y winds blow, Where
hopes to find rich - es in hunt - ing the whale.
land and the o - cean in cov - ered with snow.

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

INDEX

39

7. Ten in the Bed

Intro 8 beats

F

There were ten in the bed and the lit - tle one said, "Roll
o - ver, roll o - ver." They all rolled o - ver and one fell out!

There were nine...
There were eight...
There were seven...
There were six...
There were five...
There were four...
There were three...
There were two...
There was one in the bed and the little one said, "Good night!"

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

40

10. In the Land of Oz

Intro 4 beats

Dm

In the land of Oz where the
puff they take is e -
snakes are dead, they put
ro - ses die, they put
dia - monds break, it is

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

la - dies smoke ci - gars, eve - ry
nough to kill a snake. When the
ro - ses on their heads. When the
dia - monds in their eyes. When the
nineteen nine - ty - eight!

New Words to replace cigars : they all eat chocolate bars, every bite they take....

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

41



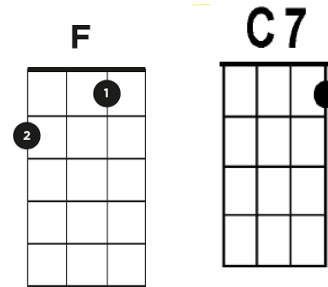
42

Changing Chords

- Practice the Change
- Modify so all students can be successful!
- divide the group in 2, and half plays one chord, and half the other.
- Allow those who are comfortable changing to play both.

43

Practice F to C7



44

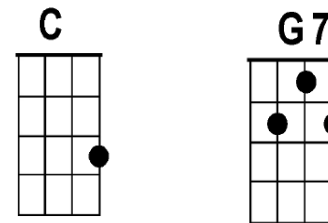
18. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Intro 2 bars

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

45

Practice C to G7



46

21. He's Got the Whole World

Intro 2 bars

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

47

2. He's got the little bitty baby in His hands,
 G7
 He's got the little bitty baby in His hands,
 C
 He's got the little bitty baby in His hands,
 G7 C
 He's got the whole world in His hands.

3. He's got you and me brother in His hands,
 G7
 He's got you and me sister in His hands,
 C
 He's got you and me brother in His hands,
 G7 C
 He's got the whole world in His hands.

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

INDEX

48

C
 4. He's got the whole world in His hands.
 G7
 He's got the whole world in His hands.
 C
 He's got the whole world in His hands.
 G7 C
 He's got the whole world in His hands.

INDEX

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49



50

Practice C to G

C

G

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

51

Teaching Jambalaya

52

Practice Dm, G7

Dm

G7

<https://musicplayonline.com/ukulele/>

53



54

Chord Practice "Wavin' Flag"

When ready, click on the link to the original artist's rec'd <https://youtu.be/WLTSfd>

Step 1: Strum four C chords, then use four beat to change to the next chord.

C	F	Am	G
////	////	////	////

Step 2: Strum seven C chords, then on beat eight, change chords.

C	F	Am	G
////	////	////	////

Step 3: Once comfortable, play slowly with counting.

C	F	Am	G	C	F	Am	G
////	////	////	////	////	////	////	////

Step 4: To play with the performance video, play each chord twice.

C	F	Am	G	C	F	Am	G
////	////	////	////	////	////	////	////

55

Chord Practice "Someone to Watch Over Me"

Intro and Verse

Step 1: Strum four C chords, then use four beat to change to the next chord.

C	G7	F	C	G7
////	////	////	////	////

Step 2: Strum seven C chords, then on beat eight, change to the next chord.

C	G7	F	C	G7
////	////	////	////	////

Step 3: Once comfortable, play slowly with counting.

C	G7	F	C	G7
////	////	////	////	////

56

Ukulele Resources Used

Easy Ukulele Songs (all online)
16 one chord songs introduce chords one at a time
15 easy two chord folk songs
Links to pop songs that kids can play in projectable
Includes chord posters
Includes projectable lyrics, music, links to pop songs
Audio embedded into PDF projectable

More Easy Ukulele Songs (new)
7 one chord songs introduce chords one at a time
35 easy two and three chord folk songs
Chord Practice for many 2-3 chord pop songs
Links to lyrics, performance and tutorial videos
Includes projectable PDF

Musicplayonline.com

Easy Ukulele Songs - More Easy Ukulele

57

Musicplayonline

\$150/year USD for ALL grades!

Musicplayonline.com

58

Ukulele Resources Canada

Thank You's

Artie and Denise Odyssey Participants

Musicplay Tech Team ~ I don't have the skills to do this without a team to edit video, set up Vimeo Live, monitor server activity, and update website to host recordings.

Musicplay Team and Staff ~ office, graphics, editing, programming, arranging, recording, and customer service ~ our team works hard every day to make Musicplayonline awesome!

59

Ukulele Resources USA/International

Easy Ukulele Book on TPT