

BEGINNING BAND 2:

Use these tools in combination with Beginning Band sheet #1 to teach:

Counting to 4 over and over in an even pattern.

Playing on a beat (quarter note) or half beat (eighth note).

Being quiet on a beat (quarter note) or half beat (eighth note).

Playing together.

Playing your own music at the same time as others play theirs.

Writing your own music.

Cut out the numbers as a strip and the eighth notes and eighth rests individually. (If you find it too hard to get two notes or rests above each number, cut the numbers apart and spread them further apart.)

The first step is the same as with Beginning Band #1. Pointing at the #'s as you say them. Notice that you can do this slowly or quickly. This is called beat or tempo. It is important that you learn to count evenly and together so that when you do play you will play together. (1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4,....) (We are continuing with the most common tempo - "common time" - which is 4/4 time. The top 4 indicates how many beats are in a group (measure) and the bottom 4 (quarter note) indicates what kind of note gets 1 beat.)

Try clapping 2 times for each # or beat. This is harder, but it gives us the option of making our music different. It helps if you are able to say 1 and, 2 and, 3 and, 4 and, 1 and, 2 and, 3 and, 4 and. Practice this until you have it smoothly, then go back and forth clapping only once on the (4) beats and then 2x each on the 4 beats.

Choose a # (beat). Counting through your 4 beats (measure) clap once on the beat you have chosen. The 2nd time through, clap 2 x on the same beat. (Remember the 1 and, 2 and, 3 and, 4 and!) Change the # (beat) you choose.

Are you having trouble remembering when you are to clap? That's why we have the notes. The notes are there to tell you when to make your musical sounds. Now place the quarter note (from Beginning Band 1) over the # (beat) that you are going to clap. Place 2 eighth notes over the same beat in the 2nd measure. Play or clap these two measures. Move the notes around and "play" your music. Add some quarter rests to help you remember when to be quiet.

Slowly begin adding other notes/rests, practicing each time until you can play it correctly and smoothly. Remember that each quarter note or rest gets 1 complete beat and it takes a combination of 2 eighth notes or rests for each beat.

Now that you can play both quarter notes/rests and eighth notes/rests, put together more measures (groups of 4) so you can have a longer song. You will not count to 8, but will start over counting to 4 again with each set (measure) of #'s (beats) added.

The next step is to have two people with the same sets of music play together. Then have their music be different and still have them play together. Add people and music until you are both having great fun and have learned how to play just your part while others play theirs.



1



2



3



4

Cut here