

Chapter 3

Playing percussion instruments in the school yard

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Summary

On May 21st 2018 an outdoor music lesson was organized in the school yard with the participation of 50 students from classes C and D. Students were divided in two groups and each group participated in the activity for one hour. Different percussion instruments were presented, as well as typical rhythms of Greek music and students played music, sang and danced.

Name of the activity

Playing percussion instruments in the school yard

Introduction

Playing percussion instruments one can make music directly, without having any knowledge about music. Therefore this activity is important because all students have a chance to play a musical instrument and in the same time understand the meaning of different rhythms.

Learning objectives

- Learn about percussion instruments.
- Learn about different rhythms in Greek music.
- Listen to music carefully.
- Play a musical instrument following the rhythm.
- Enhance eye, ear and hand coordination.
- Synchronize with others while playing music together.
- Express and enjoy themselves.

Resources

Percussion instruments: darbuka (Arabic hand drum), davul, riqq, kajon, wooden sticks), portable speaker.

Activity

Step 1:

Percussion instruments were presented as well as information about their place of origin.

Step 2:

Teachers played each instrument and students listened to the different sounds.

Step 2:

We listened to Greek songs that had different rhythms: kalamatianos (7 beats, 3-2-2), zonaradikos (6 beats, 3-3) and syrtos (8 beats,3-3-2). Teachers explained what rhythm is and how to identify each one by the beats. Then we sang all together listening to the songs.

Step 3:

Students were divided in two groups: one playing percussion instruments and the other performing body percussion. Teachers showed them how to play each rhythm by counting the beats.

Step 4:

Students played music, sang along and some of them also danced following the rhythm!

Comments from the learners' surveys

Students loved the activity and had a really good time. They showed interest in participating in it and some of them expressed the wish to learn how to play a musical instrument. They thought it was an easy and pleasant lesson.

Final remarks

Students were interested to learn about the instruments and play with them. They were happy to be able to play music by themselves and did really well. They seemed happy and comfortable and we noticed that some of them were very talented, so we suggested them to have music lessons! It was important to have this lesson outdoors, because we could be louder than it would be indoors, less distracting for other classes and the nice sunny day made it even more fun for all of us.

Supplementary material

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