

smartmusic lesson plans

Understanding Musical Terms



Grade Level: All Levels Class: Band, Strings, Choral

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**Teacher
Instructions**

Overview

What occurs above and below a staff are as important as the notes themselves. SmartMusic's dictionary of symbols and terms provides students a resource to explore and learn the language of music.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Define musical terms related to a musical example.
2. Demonstrate the ability to navigate SmartMusic's symbols and terms dictionary and apply this information to examples considered in class.

National Music Content Standards addressed:

5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

Assignment Suggestions

Choose a solo, ensemble, or full ensemble composition from which students will define ten musical terms or symbols. For beginning and intermediate students, you may want to pre-select five or six terms that you want the students to master.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Beginner | Grade 1 to 1.5 Compositions |
| Intermediate | Grade 2 to 3 Compositions |
| Intermediate/ Advanced | Grade 2.5 to Grade 4 Compositions |
| Advanced | Grade 3.5 to Grade 6 Compositions |



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Teacher Instructions

Teacher Procedures

1. Introduce SmartMusic's symbols and terms dictionary.
2. Use musical examples to define terms related to music performance.
3. Give students a practice example and do exercises in class.
4. To reinforce the understanding of terms, have students complete the definition table outside of regular class.
5. Review student procedures prior to assignment.

Assessment

A 30-point scale, with equal weight given to each category, could be used to evaluate the assignment. Consider writing five terms or symbols on the board and asking students to write definitions on a half sheet of paper, using complete sentences.

Teacher Suggestions

Be sure to explain the difference between the symbols reference and the terms dictionary. Both reference tools can be accessed from the "Help" menu or from the "Symbols and Terms" button on the main interface screen. Don't forget that demonstrating the use of these tools can be a powerful technique to reinforce learning.

Lesson Extensions

1. Ask students to identify musical terms when they are given a new composition. See how many terms students can correctly identify in class without using SmartMusic's symbols and terms dictionary.
2. Identify terms that relate to musical style and ask for volunteers to model appropriate musical styles.
3. Play a recording and ask students to identify the symbols and terms that they think they hear.
4. Ask students to listen to a recording and evaluate if the performers observed the musical markings.
5. Record your group and ask students to listen to the recording to evaluate if the musical markings were observed.
6. Give students a musical example (score or part only) and ask them to use musical terms to define styles, musical road maps, tempo markings, articulations, dynamics, etc.
7. Discuss, compare, and contrast musical terms with other disciplines such as visual arts, social studies, language, and math.

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Understanding Musical Terms



Name: _____ Instrument: _____
 Class/Hour: _____ Date Due: _____
 Grade: _____

**Student
Assignment**

Directions

1. Define 10 different music related terms or symbols in the following composition:

2. To look up a symbol or term, select Symbols and Terms from the main SmartMusic screen. Musical symbols and terms explain tempo markings, articulation, dynamics, and so on. The terms are arranged alphabetically. Symbols are displayed in alphabetical order. Scroll down the page to find the symbol that you are looking for.
3. Clicking on the “Index” tab in the upper left-hand corner displays an alphabetical list of all musical terms. Click on a term to see its definition.
4. Use the table on page 2 to record the symbol or term, its definition, and the measure that the symbol or term appears.
5. Close or minimize the terms and symbols dictionary and return to SmartMusic.
6. Return this sheet to your classroom teacher by the due date.



