

ABEL

RHYTHM DOMINOES

Curriculum for public schools and music schools based on
ABEL Rhythm Dominoes ® and its Rhythmic Alphabet™

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The Curriculum for public schools and music schools based on ABEL Rhythm Dominoes® and its Rhythmic Alphabet™ provide an engaging, fun, and effective way to teach rhythm and music to students of various ages and levels.

Curriculum Overview:

The ABEL Rhythm Dominoes curriculum can be adapted to a wide range of student ages and skill levels, from elementary schools to high school and college-level music programs. The curriculum will focus on building rhythmic literacy, improving timing, and encouraging creativity and musical expression.

Grade Level: Elementary (Grades K-5)

Goal:

Introduce basic rhythmic concepts, develop listening skills, and foster an understanding of rhythm through the ABEL Rhythm Dominoes game.

Key Concepts:

- Steady beat and pulse
- Simple note values (quarter notes, eighth notes, rests)
- Basic rhythm patterns using the Rhythmic Alphabet™
- Rhythmic notation and its relationship to time signatures

Lesson Plans:

Lesson 1: Introduction to Rhythm and Pulse

- Objective: Students will understand what a "pulse" is and how it relates to rhythm.
- Activity: Use clapping and tapping to identify the pulse in simple songs. Introduce the Rhythmic Alphabet™ by associating simple rhythms with the letters A, B, and C (quarter notes, eighth notes).
- Game: Play the ABEL Rhythm Dominoes® game using the Black Deck™ to demonstrate basic rhythmic cells.

Lesson 2: Introducing Note Values and Rhythmic Cells

- Objective: Students will learn to recognize quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests.
- Activity: Show visual cards with different rhythmic cells (e.g., A = quarter note, B = eighth note, etc.). Have students clap and count along to these rhythms.
- Game: Rhythmic Dictation – The instructor plays rhythms using the cards, and students must identify and repeat them.

Lesson 3: Creating Simple Rhythmic Patterns

- Objective: Students will combine simple rhythmic cells to create patterns.
- Activity: Students draw their own rhythm cards using the Black Deck™ and perform their rhythms with classmates.
- Game: "Call-and-Response" game where one student plays a rhythm, and the others echo it.

Lesson 4: Understanding Time Signatures

- Objective: Students will understand basic time signatures (4/4) and how they influence rhythm.
- Activity: Show how different rhythms fit into measures (e.g., 4/4 = 4 quarter notes per measure). Have students tap along with different time signatures.
- Game: Students use the ABEL Rhythm Dominoes® to create measures with the correct time signature and perform them.

Lesson 5: Performance Loops and Group Work

- Objective: Students will practice performing rhythmic patterns in small groups.
- Activity: In groups, students create a rhythmic performance loop using cards. Focus on steady pulse and rhythmic coordination.
- Game: "Rhythmic Performance Challenge" – Students use the cards to create a rhythmic performance loop to share with the class.

Grade Level: Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Goal:

Refine rhythmic understanding, introduce complex rhythms, and explore improvisation and composition through the ABEL Rhythm Dominoes system.

Key Concepts:

- Complex note values (16th notes, triplets, dotted rhythms)
- Advanced rhythmic patterns using the Rhythmic Alphabet™
- Time signatures beyond 4/4 (e.g., 3/4, 6/8)
- Basic improvisation and rhythmic composition

Lesson Plans:

Lesson 1: Advanced Rhythmic Notation

- Objective: Students will learn to read and perform more complex rhythmic patterns (16th notes, triplets).
- Activity: Use the ****White Deck™**** to demonstrate advanced rhythmic figures and how they fit into a measure.
- Game: Students use the Black Deck™ to build rhythmic cells that include 16th notes or triplets and perform them in small groups.

Lesson 2: Exploring Time Signatures

- Objective: Students will explore time signatures beyond 4/4, such as 3/4 and 6/8.
- Activity: Explain how different time signatures affect rhythm and performance. Use the Rhythmic Alphabet™ to perform rhythms in different time signatures.
- Game: "Time Signature Challenge" – Students draw cards to create rhythms in various time signatures and perform them for the class.

Lesson 3: Rhythmic Dictation and Improvisation

- Objective: Students will improve their rhythmic dictation and begin to improvise rhythms.
- Activity: Instructor plays a rhythm, and students transcribe the rhythm using the Black Deck™. Then, allow students to create their own rhythmic improvisations using the cards.
- Game: "Improvisation Jam" – Students use the cards to improvise rhythmic patterns in pairs or small groups.

Lesson 4: Rhythmic Composition

- Objective: Students will create and perform their own rhythmic compositions.
- Activity: Students use the cards to create a short rhythm composition. Perform compositions in class, focusing on precision and timing.
- Game: "Rhythmic Composition Performance" – In small groups, students share their compositions with the class.

Lesson 5: Group Performance and Synchronization

- Objective: Students will learn to synchronize rhythm in a group setting.
- Activity: Students practice performing rhythmic patterns together in a large group, ensuring that all parts are synchronized.
- Game: "Rhythmic Ensemble" – Create a group performance using the ABEL Rhythm Dominoes® cards, focusing on timing and ensemble cohesion.

Grade Level: High School (Grades 9-12)

Goal:

Master complex rhythms, enhance improvisational skills, and develop a deep understanding of rhythm in different musical contexts.

Key Concepts:

- Syncopation and polyrhythms
- Complex time signatures (e.g., 5/4, 7/4)
- Rhythmic improvisation and composition in various musical genres
- Rhythmic analysis and ear training

Lesson Plans:

Lesson 1: Syncopation and Polyrhythms

- Objective: Students will understand syncopation and how to perform polyrhythms.
- Activity: Introduce syncopated rhythms using the Rhythmic Alphabet™. Demonstrate how to perform two or more contrasting rhythmic patterns (polyrhythms).
- Game: "Polyrhythm Challenge" – Students perform different rhythmic patterns simultaneously, ensuring synchronization.

Lesson 2: Advanced Time Signatures and Irregular Rhythms

- Objective: Students will explore complex time signatures (e.g., 5/4, 7/8) and perform rhythms in these meters.
- Activity: Discuss how to feel and perform in complex time signatures. Use the cards to create rhythms in irregular meters.
- Game: "Odd Meter Exploration" – Students create and perform rhythms in odd meters using the ABEL Rhythm Dominoes®.

Lesson 3: Rhythmic Improvisation and Composition

- Objective: Students will create original rhythmic compositions and perform them in an improvisational setting.
- Activity: Students create and perform improvisations using the Rhythmic Alphabet™. They may use hand percussion, body percussion, or melodic instruments to perform their improvisations.
- Game: "Rhythmic Free Play" – Students randomly select rhythm cards and improvise rhythmic phrases in response to a prompt (e.g., a genre, an emotion, or an event).

Lesson 4: Rhythmic Analysis and Ear Training

- Objective: Students will develop skills in rhythmic ear training and analysis.
- Activity: Instructor plays rhythms for students to transcribe or identify. Discuss how rhythms relate to music theory.
- Game: "Rhythmic Dictation" – Students listen to short rhythmic phrases and write them down using the Rhythmic Alphabet™.

Lesson 5: Group Performance and Advanced Coordination

- Objective: Students will develop coordination and precision in ensemble settings.
- Activity: Students rehearse rhythmic compositions and perform them in an ensemble, focusing on timing, synchronization, and dynamic contrasts.
- Game: "Rhythmic Ensemble Showdown" – Students collaborate to perform a complex rhythmic composition in a group.

Additional Activities for All Levels:

- Rhythmic Bingo: Create a bingo board with different rhythmic patterns. Call out rhythms and have students mark off the corresponding pattern on their boards.
- Rhythmic Poetry: Have students write poems or stories and assign rhythmic values to the syllables. Perform the "poetry" as rhythms with body percussion or instruments.

Assessment Methods:

- Performance Assessment: Students will perform rhythmic patterns both individually and in groups.
- Written Assessments: Rhythmic dictation quizzes where students identify or transcribe rhythms.
- Creative Projects: Students create original rhythmic compositions using ABEL Rhythm Dominoes® and perform them for the class.

Materials Needed:

To implement the ABEL Rhythm Dominoes curriculum in public and music schools, here is a list of the materials needed:

1. ABEL Rhythm Dominoes® Playing Cards:

- Black Deck™: This deck represents the pulse and subdivisions of rhythms (quarter notes, eighth notes, 16th notes, and triplets). It is essential for students to practice rhythmic accuracy and timing.
- White Deck™: This deck represents rhythmic notation used in music, with visual depictions of note values and rests that correspond to the rhythms in the Black Deck™.
- These decks can be used individually or in combination, depending on the lesson's focus.

2. Metronomes:

- A metronome is a crucial tool for keeping time and practicing rhythms at a consistent tempo.
- Digital or mechanical metronomes can be used, with the ability to set specific beats per minute (BPM).
- ****Metronome apps****: For schools with limited resources, free metronome apps or software (available for smartphones or computers) can also be used.

3. Percussion Instruments (Optional but Recommended):

To provide students with hands-on experience with rhythm and timing, a variety of percussion instruments can be used:

- Claves
- Drumsticks
- Bongos or congas
- Snare drums or practice pads
- Shakers or tambourines
- Body percussion (clapping, tapping feet, snapping fingers)

For middle and high school students, instruments such as drum kits, pianos, or guitars can also be incorporated to explore rhythm in different musical contexts.

4. Whiteboard or Chalkboard:

- Whiteboard/Chalkboard: A large board for writing out rhythms, time signatures, and notation during group lessons.
- Markers/Chalk: For visual explanations and demonstrations of rhythmic patterns, note values, and time signatures.

5. Projector/Screen (Optional):

- If available, a projector or screen can be used to display rhythm cards, time signatures, and other visual aids for the class.
- PowerPoint presentations or PDF documents with rhythm diagrams and explanations can be shared with students.

6. Rhythm Worksheets and PDFs:

- Rhythm Dictation Sheets: Worksheets for rhythmic dictation exercises, where students can transcribe rhythms they hear or perform.
- Rhythmic Composition Sheets: Blank sheets for students to write and compose their own rhythms.
- Time Signature and Note Value Charts: Visual aids showing different time signatures, note values, and rhythmic patterns.

7. Music Notation Software (Optional):

- For more advanced students (high school level), software like Sibelius, Finale, or MuseScore can be used for creating and notating rhythms.
- These programs can help students visualize their rhythmic compositions and understand how rhythm functions in more complex pieces of music.

8. Sound System or Speakers (Optional):

- If using music or rhythm tracks to accompany lessons, a basic sound system or speakers can be used to play pre-recorded tracks or rhythm exercises for the class.

9. Audio/Video Recording Device (Optional):

- To record performances, group rhythms, or student improvisations, a recording device (smartphone, tablet, or camera) can be used for later review and reflection.

10. Classroom Space:

- Open Space: Ideally, lessons should take place in a space where students can stand, move, and perform rhythm activities. A large classroom, music room, or gymnasium works well for this.
- Desks/Tables: If seating is required for writing exercises or rhythm dictation, arrange desks or tables accordingly.

Additional Resources (Optional):

- Educational Videos and Tutorials: Online tutorials and instructional videos (e.g., YouTube) can supplement the curriculum, demonstrating rhythm exercises, rhythmic games, and performance examples.
- Printed Materials: If available, you can use printed handouts, rhythm flashcards, and charts to reinforce concepts.
- Student Journals: For reflection and note-taking, students can keep rhythm journals where they record their progress and observations

Summary of Materials:

1. ABEL Rhythm Dominoes® Playing Cards (Black and White Decks)
2. Metronomes (digital or mechanical)
3. Percussion Instruments (claves, drums, shakers, etc.)
4. Whiteboard/Chalkboard with markers/chalk
5. Projector/Screen (optional for visual presentations)
6. Rhythm Worksheets and PDFs
7. Music Notation Software (optional for advanced students)
8. Sound System/Speakers (optional)
9. Audio/Video Recording Device (optional)
10. Open Classroom Space
11. Student Journals (optional)

These materials will provide all the tools necessary to implement a comprehensive ABEL Rhythm Dominoes-based curriculum for public and music schools. Each item helps facilitate both individual and group activities, from basic rhythm exercises to more advanced rhythmic composition and performance.

We wish you a good work with ABEL!