

Stop and Listen

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Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff has lyrics: "Stop and lis - ten! Lis - ten to the sound, it will keep you spell - bound,". The second staff has lyrics: "Stop and lis - ten! Lis - ten to the sounds of the in - stru - ments". The music consists of quarter notes and rests, with some notes beamed together.

MATERIALS: A variety of unpitched percussion.

Play your instrument on the rests after the word “Stop.” How many beats do you hear? (2)

Add a “B” section, keeping the beat the length of the song without singing.

Pass out different timbres of instruments. Take turns playing each family, so the class gets a timbre lesson for metal (ringers), wood (clickers, shakers, and scrapers), and skin (drums) unpitched percussion. After each time through the song, pass the instruments to the right, so everyone gets a chance to play everything.

When the beat is solid, mix the tah’s and titi’s up during “B” ... making rhythmic patterns.

Talk about the group sound – and work on playing musically. The youngest of children will get good at listening and creating music if you call their attention to the sound.



STEADY BEAT