

Music Games

by Lisa Baydush

Name That Holiday

Divide class into two teams. A member of each team approaches the podium/table. Teacher plays and hums a holiday song. The first player to ding the triangle (bang the drum, etc.) gets to name the holiday. If correct, the team gets a point. If they can name the title of the song, then they get an additional point. (No one from the team may call out an answer; if they do, the team loses a point!) If the player guesses the wrong holiday, then the other team's player gets a chance to answer, and wins a point if he/she is correct and another point if he/she can name the title of the song. If the second player answers incorrectly, then the first team gets a second chance: this time, the player may call for a lifeline from a fellow teammate for help in answering. If the answer is incorrect, the other team gets the same opportunity to answer with a lifeline. If incorrect, the round is over, the players sit down, and a new round begins with a new song and new players.

Rhythm Tic-Tac-Toe

Divide class into two teams. Draw tic-tac-toe board on a dry-erase or chalk board. Draw rhythm patterns in each square. Designate the X team and the O team. Flip a coin to see who goes first. The first player picks a square and claps and counts out the rhythm pattern. If he/she is correct, the team gets their X or O drawn in the square. If she is incorrect, the other team gets a chance to clap and count the rhythm. It goes back and forth until it is done correctly. The team that loses the round gets to choose the next square. The first team to get tic-tac-toe wins the game and gets one point. Draw a new tic-tac-toe board and play again.

Getting to Know You

Use Peter and Ellen Allard's Celtic Hinei Mah Tov as an icebreaker for learning students' names. Form a circle, hold hands, and walk in one direction singing the Hinei mah tov part... then one person starts (the teacher, for example) by walking across the circle to another person with hand extended to shake hands and sings, "Shalom, Audrey!" and the other person would respond by singing, "Shalom, Lisa!" Then Lisa would stand next to Audrey's spot in the circle and the group would circle around again to hinei ma tov. This time, Audrey would walk across the circle to another student and sing, "Shalom, Michael!" ... and so on, until all of the students have had an opportunity to greet a friend.

Music Spelling Bee

Divide class into four teams. Give students dry erase paddles and dry erase pen. Place cards with a note on the staff in a sequence that spells a word. Kids write the word on their paddle and the first to raise their paddle with the correct word wins a point for their team.