

CHASE THOSE "SUNDAY SCARIES" AWAY



MUSIC LESSON PLAN:

Snowball Rhythm Fight!

**30-Minute Elementary Music Lesson
(Florida – Substitute Ready)**

Grade Level: K–5 (easily adaptable)

Time: 30 minutes

Theme: Winter / Snow

Focus: Rhythm reading, steady beat, performance, cooperation

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Read and perform simple rhythmic patterns
- Maintain a steady beat while clapping rhythms
- Demonstrate appropriate movement and self-control during a music game
- Collaborate respectfully with classmates

MATERIALS:

(Very Minimal!)

- White scrap paper ($\frac{1}{2}$ sheets work best)
- Pencil or marker
- Music player OR teacher clapping (music optional)

- Open classroom space
(*No instruments. No projector. No smartboard.*)

"I CAN" STATEMENTS:

- I can clap a rhythm using my hands.
- I can keep a steady beat.
- I can read rhythm symbols.
- I can follow music game rules safely.
- I can work respectfully with others.

LESSON BREAKDOWN (30 Minutes)

1. Welcome & Warm-Up (5 minutes)

Teacher/Sub Says:

"Today we're having a *winter snowball rhythm fight* — but with music rules!"

Warm-Up Activity:

- Clap a steady beat together
- Echo clap simple rhythms:
 - Ta ta
 - Ta ti-ti
 - Ti-ti ta
- Ask: "Was that fast or slow? Did we stay together?"

2. Rhythm Review (5 minutes)

On the board (or verbally), review rhythms:

- Ta = 1 beat
- Ti-ti = 2 sounds in 1 beat

- (Optional for older grades: rest or half note, whole note, triplets, etc.)

Clap rhythms together.

Explain:

"Soon, these rhythms will turn into snowballs!"

3. Make the Snowballs (5 minutes)

1. Give each student one piece of paper
2. Students write one rhythm using ta and ti-ti

- Younger grades: teacher provides rhythm on board to copy
- Older grades: students create their own

3. Students crumple paper into a 'snowball'
4. Snowballs stay on the floor until instructed

4. Snowball Rhythm Fight Game (10 minutes)

Rules (Explain Clearly):

- No throwing at faces
- Underhand toss only
- Freeze when music stops (or teacher claps)

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How to Play:

1. Start music or clap a steady beat
2. Students gently toss snowballs across the room
3. When music stops → students freeze
4. Each student picks up the closest snowball
5. One at a time or as a class:
 - Open snowball
 - Clap the rhythm
 - Say rhythm syllables (ta, ti-ti)
6. Repeat 2–3 rounds

Variations:

- Clap rhythm → pat beat
- Perform rhythm twice

Small group clapping

5. Cool Down & Reflection (5 minutes)

Students sit in a circle.

Ask:

- “What rhythm did you clap?”
- “Was it easy or tricky?”
- “How did we show good music behavior?”

Assessment (Informal)

Teacher/Sub observes:

- Accurate rhythm clapping
- Steady beat
- Following directions

Safe participation

Differentiation

- Younger students: Copy rhythms, clap together
- Older students: Create longer patterns, clap independently
- Movement support: Perform rhythms on lap instead of clapping

Substitute Notes (Quick Read!)

- No music required — clapping works!
- Emphasize freeze and safe tossing
- Keep energy fun but controlled
- If time runs short, skip extra rounds

Standards Alignment:

This lesson aligns with the Florida B.E.S.T. Fine Arts Music Standards, including:

- MU.K–5.C.1: Responding to music (clapping and speaking rhythms)
- MU.K–5.S.1: Singing and performing (rhythmic performance)
- MU.K–5.F.1: Understanding music concepts (rhythm, beat, duration)
- MU.K–5.O.1: Creating and performing in a cooperative environment

(Lesson may be adapted in complexity for grade level.)