

# PASS THE RHYTHM OR “RHYTHM TELEPHONE”

## LESSON/ACTIVITY PLAN

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will develop and reinforce sense of steady beat/pulse and rhythmic skills (accurate rhythmic echo).
2. Students will practice giving and receiving cues and develop ensemble skills.
3. Students will create and hear multiple rhythms simultaneously and experience rhythmic layering.

### ACTIVITIES:

1. Students stand in a circle.
2. Leader turns to his/her immediate right and taps/claps/stamps a four-beat rhythmic pattern to the next person, who in turn does the same. Keeping the pulse, the rhythm makes it all the way around the circle.
3. Depending on the experience level of the group, give reminders about giving deliberate cues and making eye contact. If necessary, tap your feet to help keep the underlying pulse, or even try with a metronome.
4. Repeat with various rhythms. Incorporate beats of silence (rests) to make the exercise more difficult. Experiment with a variety of tempi.
5. Once students can consistently pass a rhythm all the way around the circle while maintaining a steady pulse, add a second rhythm when the first rhythm is half way around the circle. Try three rhythms! Once multiple rhythms are going around the circle, remind students to look back at the “passer” after each time they pass in order to hear the next rhythm as it comes to them. It’s easy to get distracted when multiple rhythms are going at once.

### OUTCOME:

Students begin to master playing rhythm patterns in a steady tempo while working together as an ensemble with a group.

## STANDARDS:

1. K–3. 1. Artistic Foundations. 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of the arts area. Music. 0.1.1.3.1. Identify the elements of music including rhythm, harmony, dynamics, tone color, texture, form and their related concepts.
2. K–3. 3. Artistic Process: Perform or Present. 1. Perform or present in a variety of contexts in the arts area using the artistic foundations. Music. 0.3.1.3.1. Sing and play a varied repertoire that includes simple rhythms and melodies.



This project is made possible  
in part by the Minnesota  
Legacy Amendment's Arts and  
Cultural Heritage Fund.