Name: _____ Date: _____

# Singing a Round: Start Late on Purpose

Circle group

Some songs sound best when singers do not start together. A round is one of them. In a round, a group sings the same tune. But each part starts at a different time.

Say three groups sing a round. Group One starts alone. When it finishes the first line, Group Two begins at the start. Soon Group Three joins. Now all three sing different parts at once. Each group goes back to the start when it ends. The song can go on and on. That is why it is a round.

It may sound like a mess, but it does not. The notes fit together to make harmony. Harmony is notes sung at the same time that sound good. A round works only if the tune is made with care. Every spot must sound nice with every other spot.

Singing a round is good practice. You keep your own part while others sing something else.

## Questions

**1. What is a round?**

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**2. When does Group Two start?**

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**3. Why is it called a round?**

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_____

**4. What is harmony?**

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**5. What must be true about the tune?**

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**6. Why does a round take careful listening?**

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## Words to know

round: a song where singers start one after another

harmony: notes that sound pleasant when played or sung together

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Singing a Round: Start Late on Purpose

Triangle group

Some songs sound best when nobody sings at the same time. A round is one of these songs. In a round, a group sings the very same tune, but each part starts at a different moment.

Here is how it goes. Suppose three groups sing a round. Group One starts the song alone. When Group One finishes the first line, Group Two begins at the start. A little later, Group Three jumps in. Now all three groups are singing different parts of the tune at once. Each group keeps going around to the beginning again, so the song can go on as long as the singers wish. That is why it is called a round.

It may seem like a mess. Yet something lovely happens. The notes from different parts fit together and make harmony, which is a blend of notes sung or played at once. A round only works if the composer wrote the tune carefully. Every spot in the tune has to sound pleasant when it meets any other spot.

Singing a round is also good practice. Each singer must keep to her own part, even while other voices sing something else nearby. That takes a lot of listening and a steady beat.

## Questions

**1. What is a round?**

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**2. When does Group Two begin singing?**

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**3. Why is it called a round?**

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**4. What is harmony?**

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**5. What must be true about the tune for a round to work?**

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**6. Why does singing a round take so much listening?**

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_____

## Words to know

round: a song where singers start one after another
harmony: notes that sound pleasant when played or sung together
composer: a person who writes music
steady: regular and not changing speed

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Singing a Round: Start Late on Purpose

Square group

Certain songs sound their best when no two singers are performing the same words at the same moment. A round is one such song. In a round, an entire group sings an identical tune, yet each part begins at a different point in time.

Suppose three groups are singing a round. Group One starts the song alone. When Group One completes the first line, Group Two begins from the very beginning, and a little later Group Three joins in. By now all three groups are singing different portions of the tune simultaneously. Each group circles back to the start whenever it reaches the end, so the song may continue for as long as the singers like, which is the reason it is called a round.

It might seem like a jumble, but something lovely occurs. The notes from the different parts fit together to produce harmony, a blend of notes sung or played at once. A round succeeds only if the composer wrote the tune with great care, so that every spot in it sounds pleasant when it meets any other spot.

Singing a round is also valuable practice. Each singer has to hold on to her own part even as other voices sing something different close by, and that demands attentive listening and a steady beat.

## Questions

**1. What is a round?**

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_____

**2. When does Group Two begin singing?**

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_____

**3. Why is the song called a round?**

_____

_____

**4. What is harmony?**

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**5. What must be true of the tune for a round to succeed?**

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**6. Why does singing a round demand so much careful listening?**

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_____

## Words to know

round: a song where singers start one after another
harmony: notes that sound pleasant when played or sung together
composer: a person who writes music
steady: regular and not changing speed

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: Singing a Round: Start Late on Purpose

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: Singing a Round: Start Late on Purpose

Easier · 155 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. A song where all sing the same tune but start at different times.
2. When Group One finishes the first line.
3. Each group goes back to the start, so it goes around.
4. Notes sung at the same time that sound good.
5. Every spot must sound nice with every other spot.
6. You must keep your part while others sing something else.

### Triangle: Singing a Round: Start Late on Purpose

This passage · 205 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. A song where everyone sings the same tune but starts at different times.
2. When Group One finishes the first line.
3. Each group goes back to the start again, so the song goes around.
4. A blend of notes sung or played at the same time.
5. Every spot in it must sound pleasant with every other spot.
6. Singers must keep their own part while other voices sing something different.

### Square: Singing a Round: Start Late on Purpose

Harder · 217 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.1

1. A song in which everyone sings the same tune but starts at different times.
2. When Group One completes the first line.
3. Each group circles back to the start, so the song goes around.
4. A blend of notes sung or played at once.
5. Every spot in it must sound pleasant with every other spot.
6. Singers must hold on to their own part while other voices sing something different.