Name: _____ Date: _____

Beatboxing: A Drum Kit Made from a Mouth

Circle group

A beatboxer can sound like a band with just a mouth. There are no drums. Yet you hear deep bass, sharp snares, and hissing cymbals. Beatboxing grew out of hip hop music. People wanted a beat even with no drummer or machine around.

Each drum sound comes from a small move of the lips, tongue, and breath. A deep kick drum often starts with a burst of air between closed lips, like a soft b. A crisp hi-hat can be a hiss through the teeth, like a short ts. A snare often starts with a quick push of air that makes a pop. The tongue and cheeks shape it.

A microphone helps a lot. It makes quiet puffs and clicks louder. It gives low sounds more power. Without one, many small sounds would be lost.

The hard part is putting sounds together. A beatboxer stacks a kick, a snare, and a hi-hat into a steady rhythm. Some even hum a tune too. They must breathe without breaking the beat. Practice is the secret. Learn each sound slowly, and your muscles will remember.

Questions

1. What music did beatboxing grow out of?

_____

_____

2. How can a kick drum sound start?

_____

_____

3. Which parts of the mouth shape the sounds?

_____

_____

4. What does a microphone do?

_____

_____

5. Why is it hard to keep a steady beat?

_____

_____

6. Why does learning each sound slowly help?

_____

_____

Words to know

beatbox: to make drum and bass sounds using your mouth and voice
snare: a drum that makes a sharp, snapping sound
cymbal: a thin metal plate that makes a crashing or sizzling sound
microphone: a device that makes sounds louder
rhythm: a pattern of beats in music

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: _____

Beatboxing: A Drum Kit Made from a Mouth

Triangle group

A beatboxer can sound like a whole band using only a mouth. With no drums in sight, the performer makes thumping bass, snapping snares, and sizzling cymbals. Beatboxing grew out of hip hop music, where people wanted a beat even when no drummer or machine was around.

Each drum sound comes from a small movement of the lips, tongue, and breath. A deep kick drum often starts with a quick burst of air pushed out between closed lips, like saying a soft letter b. A crisp hi-hat can be made by hissing through the teeth with a short, sharp ts. A snare drum often takes a sudden push of air that makes a pop, which beatboxers shape with the tongue and cheeks.

A microphone helps a lot. It makes quiet puffs and clicks louder and gives the low sounds more power. Without one, many of the smallest sounds would vanish into the room.

The real challenge is putting the sounds together. Beatboxers stack a kick, a snare, and a hi-hat into a steady rhythm, and some even hum a tune at the same time. They must breathe in the middle of the beat without breaking it. Practice is the secret. Learning each sound one at a time, slowly, builds the muscle memory that lets the whole groove flow.

Questions

1. What music did beatboxing grow out of?

_____

_____

2. How can a kick drum sound be made?

_____

_____

3. Which body parts help shape the sounds?

_____

_____

4. What does a microphone do for a beatboxer?

_____

_____

5. Why is it hard to keep a steady beat while beatboxing?

_____

_____

6. Why does learning each sound slowly help?

_____

_____

Words to know

beatbox: to make drum and bass sounds using your mouth and voice
snare: a drum that makes a sharp, snapping sound
cymbal: a thin metal plate that makes a crashing or sizzling sound
microphone: a device that makes sounds louder
rhythm: a pattern of beats in music

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: _____

Beatboxing: A Drum Kit Made from a Mouth

Square group

A skilled beatboxer can sound like an entire band while using nothing but a mouth. With no drums anywhere in sight, the performer produces thumping bass, snapping snares, and sizzling cymbals. Beatboxing developed out of hip hop music, in which people wanted a beat even when no drummer or machine happened to be available.

Each drum sound originates in a small movement of the lips, tongue, and breath. A deep kick drum often begins with a quick burst of air pushed out between closed lips, much like saying a soft letter b. A crisp hi-hat can be created by hissing through the teeth with a short, sharp ts. A snare drum frequently calls for a sudden push of air that makes a pop, which beatboxers then shape with the tongue and cheeks.

A microphone assists considerably. It amplifies the quiet puffs and clicks and gives the low sounds more power. Without one, many of the smallest sounds would disappear into the surrounding room.

The genuine challenge lies in combining the sounds. Beatboxers layer a kick, a snare, and a hi-hat into a steady rhythm, and some even hum a melody at the same moment. They must also find time to breathe in the middle of the beat without breaking it. Patient practice is the secret. Learning each sound individually and slowly builds the muscle memory that allows the entire groove to flow.

Questions

1. From which kind of music did beatboxing develop?

_____

_____

2. How can a deep kick drum sound be made?

_____

_____

3. Which parts of the body help shape the different sounds?

_____

_____

4. What does a microphone do for a beatboxer?

_____

_____

5. Why is keeping a steady beat difficult for a beatboxer?

_____

_____

6. Why is it useful to practice each sound slowly and individually?

_____

_____

Words to know

beatbox: to make drum and bass sounds using your mouth and voice
snare: a drum that makes a sharp, snapping sound
cymbal: a thin metal plate that makes a crashing or sizzling sound
microphone: a device that makes sounds louder
rhythm: a pattern of beats in music

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: Beatboxing: A Drum Kit Made from a Mouth

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

Circle: Beatboxing: A Drum Kit Made from a Mouth

Easier · 184 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. Hip hop music.
2. With a burst of air between closed lips.
3. The lips, tongue, cheeks, teeth and breath.
4. It makes quiet sounds louder and gives low sounds more power.
5. The beatboxer must breathe without breaking the rhythm.
6. Your muscles remember it, so the whole groove can flow.

Triangle: Beatboxing: A Drum Kit Made from a Mouth

This passage · 220 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. Hip hop music.
2. With a quick burst of air pushed out between closed lips.
3. The lips, tongue, cheeks, teeth and breath.
4. It makes quiet puffs and clicks louder and gives low sounds more power.
5. The performer must breathe without breaking the rhythm.
6. It builds muscle memory so the whole groove can flow.

Square: Beatboxing: A Drum Kit Made from a Mouth

Harder · 234 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.3

1. Hip hop music.
2. With a quick burst of air pushed out between closed lips.
3. The lips, tongue, cheeks, teeth and breath.
4. It amplifies quiet puffs and clicks and gives low sounds more power.
5. The performer has to breathe without breaking the rhythm.
6. It builds the muscle memory that lets the whole groove flow.