

Beat the Beat

Approach: One to one

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Focus: Identifying a beat in a piece of music and hitting a drum in time with it.

Resources: Drum, beater, video recording on a laptop computer.

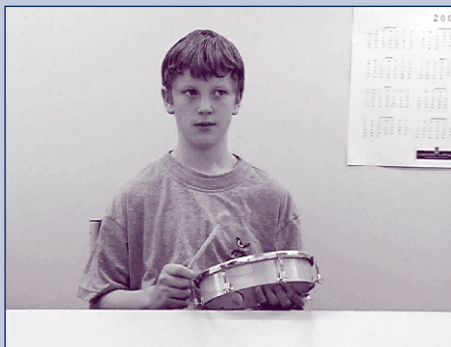
Questions/instructions:

In this activity you will be playing the drum to the beat of some music.

Let's watch the video. It will tell you what to do.

Ensure that the drum is visible to camera — the view is not obstructed by the computer screen.

Click the *Play* button to start the video.



The video shows a student identifying the beat in a musical example and hitting a drum in time with it. Subsequently, three pieces of music are played and the student is asked to hit the drum in time with a beat in each piece.

		% responses	
		y4	y8
1. "Dharpa Tree"			
	from Yothu Yindi's "Tribal Voice"		
	establishing a steady beat		
	achieved quickly	43	58
	eventually achieved	30	23
	not achieved	27	19
	did beat fit with music ?		
	yes	68	78
	no	32	22
2. "Soulflower"			
	from Emma Paki, "Tribal Stomp"		
	establishing a steady beat		
	achieved quickly	33	48
	eventually achieved	34	24
	not achieved	33	28
	did beat fit with music ?		
	yes	60	65
	no	40	35
3. "Spring"			
	from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons"		
	establishing a steady beat		
	achieved quickly	13	28
	eventually achieved	17	18
	not achieved	70	54
	did beat fit with music ?		
	yes	26	42
	no	74	58

Commentary:

On average, about 10 percent more year 8 than year 4 students succeeded in establishing an appropriate beat. Students had considerably more difficulty with the excerpt from "Vivaldi" than with the two other pieces.