

# VOYAGE ON THE HIGH C'S

Deborah Ziolkoski © 2006

## LEARNING INTENTIONS:

- To familiarize students with the music "Fossils" by Camille Saint-Saëns.
- Reading and performing rhythm patterns.
- Students will experience rondo form through singing, moving and playing.
- Students will identify different sections of this rondo (For example- Saint-Saëns' musical joke using Mozart's 'Twinkle, Twinkle').
- Students will 'read' and follow the score using a music map.

Level: Grades 4-6

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Visuals of notation
- Recording of Fossils
- Rhythm sticks, found sound.
- Music map.

## PROCESS

### A SECTION:



1. Begin with the story (Attached)
2. Using visual prompts of text, teach the Skeleton's Rattle through speech and transfer rhythm to sticks and/or found sound.
3. Teach the Pirate's Mimic similarly and transfer to body percussion, modeling patschen through echo imitation.
4. Designate half the class as skeletons and half as pirates. Skeletons to sit in a small circle armed with 'skeleton bones' (sticks, wooden spoons, plastic bones etc.) and pirates in groups of two surrounding the skeletons.
5. Practice Section A saying the parts aloud. Add the audio files. Stop immediately after Section A.

### B SECTION:



1. Listen to Section B of the music. Discuss the following:
  - Can students hear where the pirates are moving around each other acting like ghosts trying to scare each other?
  - Do the students recognize a melody in this section? (Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)
  - What could be happening? (Skeletons are teasing the scared pirates)
2. Demonstrate how the pirates haunting each other might look like. Try this with the students, framing as follows:
  - **Pirate Haunt:** Pretend to haunt other pirates who may be aboard the pirate ship. If students are doing this with a partner, pirates haunt their partner and when the music changes, the roles reverse.
3. The skeletons then skip around pirates in a teasing way to the Twinkle melody. Frame as:
  - **Skeleton's Tease:** When students hear the music "Scaredy, scaredy, scaredy, cats..." this is the sound of the skeletons dancing around teasing all those scared pirates. They can pretend to be a skeleton by skipping around the ship, singing and laughing at all the pirates!
4. Divide students into Skeleton and pirate groups.
5. With sticks in "skeletons" hands, skeletons skip around the pirates teasing them. "Scaredy, scaredy, scaredy cats, pirates are such scaredy cats..." (2X)

**Beware!** Skeletons must return to spots in circle by the end of the phrase. Try with the music.

### C SECTION:



1. Preface Section C as the arrival of the Captain. Listen to the music and ask students to consider:
  - How would a captain walk about a ship? Ask students to demonstrate.
  - What would the skeletons and pirates be doing if they heard the captain coming? (Yes! Hide!)
2. Choose one person to act as the "Captain" and divide the remaining students into skeletons and pirates. Try from the beginning, first using the audio files with the lyrics and if possible, the orchestral music only.
3. Prepare **Captain's Role** by:
  - Imagining you are the captain who is woken by the sounds of the singing and dancing pirates and skeletons. Look around the shipwreck for the cause of all this commotion. Nothing there? Back to bed you go!

## Fossils

Music: Camille Saint-Saëns

### Voyage on the High "C's"

Lyrics/Story: D. Ziolkoski © 2006

Many years ago, there was a pirate ship that sailed the seas in search of the missing music of a very famous composer, Camille Saint-Saëns.

Captain James manned the helm as his crew of burly pirates worked on deck. Night after night they searched the seas for the infamous ship that was said to have stolen the music and then crashed into a rocky cliff long ago. Rumor was that it was now a ghost ship haunted by the phantoms of its pirate crew. On dark nights you could hear their skeletons dancing on deck, and the hollow laughter that could make the hairs on your arm stand on end.

Nonetheless, this did not deter the brave crew of Captain James. They were very determined to recover the music, and promised they'd never quit their search!

One night during a fierce storm, Captain James's ship crashed right into the jagged remains of the old pirate ship. Too nervous to explore the ship at that late midnight hour, Captain James decided that they would have to wait until morning. His crew, however, was too curious and intrigued by rumors of the dancing skeletons and haunted ship. Daring and taunting each other, Captain James's crew stepped aboard to investigate, unbeknownst to their beloved captain.

To their disbelief, the first sounds they heard were the rattling of skeleton's bones. Thinking someone was just tricking them, the pirates tried to make the same sounds back, almost daring the skeletons to rattle their bones again!

The pirates quickly realized that there were a few of them who were truly scared, so they began to taunt and tease each other. The skeletons decided to tease the frightened "brave" pirates by boldly skipping forward out and around the pirates. The pirates were too shocked to move! They sang, "scaredy, scaredy, scaredy, cats, pirates are such scaredy cats!"

The skeletons were having so much fun, that they decided to rattle their bones once again. The pirates were determined not to show their fear, and echoed back relentlessly. What a racket they created!

Hearing all the commotion, Captain James decided to investigate. Hearing the captain's footsteps approaching, the pirates and skeletons both froze in hopes of not being caught!

Not wanting the fun to end, the skeletons and pirates played their little game for a final time, rattling and mimicking the sounds of rattling bones!

As for the pirates, they ended up fleeing the wreckage, as the skeletons were victorious in scaring them away. To this day, if you listen closely you can hear the skeletons singing and dancing to "Fossils," their all-time favourite music!

### Voyage on the High "C's" Listening Map

Deborah Ziolkoski © 2006



(Skeleton's rattle)  
Rhythm sticks



Listen to the bones listen to the bones listen to the Sound of the rattling bones

(Pirates mimic)  
Body percussion



Listen to the bones listen to the bones listen to the Sound of the rattling bones



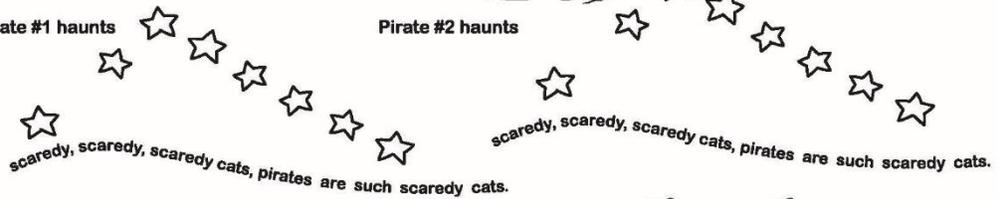
(Pirate's haunt)



Pirate #1 haunts



Pirate #2 haunts



(Skeleton's tease)



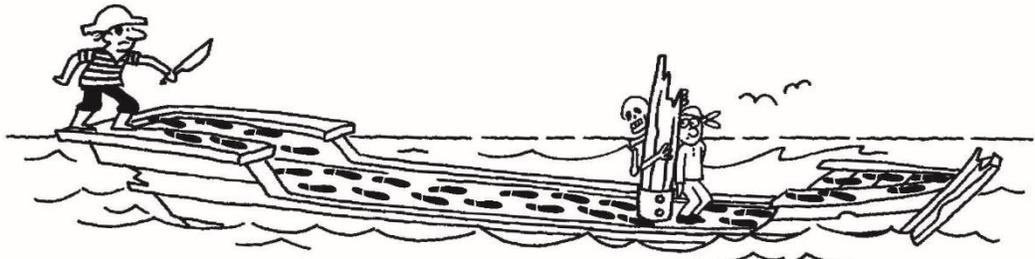
Listen to the bones listen to the bones listen to the Sound of the rattling bones



Listen to the bones listen to the bones listen to the Sound of the rattling bones



"Captain's Arrival



Listen to the bones listen to the bones listen to the Sound of the rattling bones



Listen to the bones listen to the bones listen to the Sound of the rattling bones



RONDO FORM:

