

A VerMedia A VerVision Lesson Plan Contest

Elementary Music
Second Grade
Piano Fingering Exercise

Lesson Plan Title: *3-1 Fingering for Old Dan Tucker*

Concept / Topic to Teach: using the right thumb and middle finger to play sections of the melody

Standards Addressed: National Standards for Music Education Grades 1-4
2a Students perform on pitch, in rhythm, with appropriate dynamics and timbre and maintain a steady tempo

Washington State Arts Essential Academic Learning Requirement

- 1.2. Develop arts skills and techniques.
- 2.3. Apply a responding process to an arts presentation.

Objective: Students will play sections of the melody on a piano keyboard while they sing the song.

Required Materials: piano, document camera connected to the television through a VCR or computer, individual paper copies of a keyboard, chart/overhead/big book page of *Old Dan Tucker* melody and lyrics, **optional:** recording of the song in the key of F, microphone inputted to VCR or computer, electronic keyboards

Anticipatory Set:
Open the top of the piano and have the document camera focused on the hammers and strings. Play the melody of the traditional folk song *Old Dan Tucker*.
Discuss/review what family of instruments the piano is in. Note that it is a percussion instrument because the hammers strike the strings.



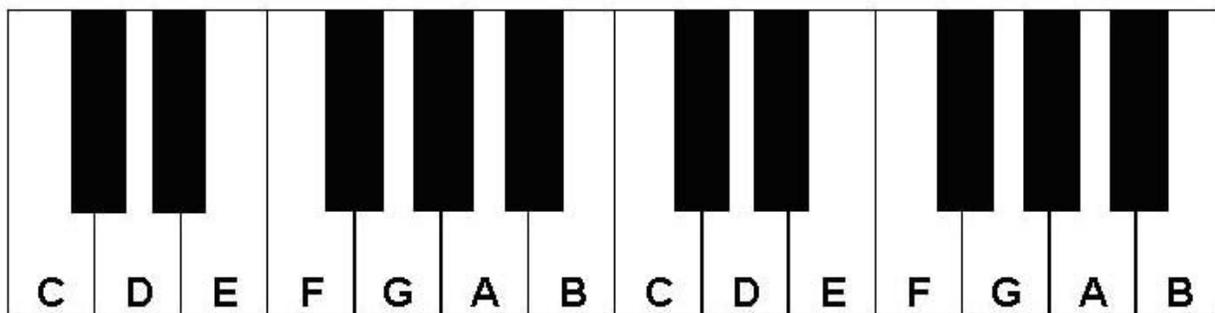
Step-By-Step Procedures: Review the names of the notes by singing A,B,C,D,E,F,G (repeat five more times) to the tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.

Review *Old Dan Tucker* using the chart/overhead. Note the repeated melody in the first and third lines. Move the document camera to show the teacher's keyboard fingering as the song is sung.



Hand out the paper copies of a keyboard to each student. Review the white and black keys. Discuss the pattern that the black keys form (2,3,2,3). Locate the group of 2 black keys that are near the middle. Identify and demonstrate the white key that lies between the two black keys. This is D. Now locate F. It is two white keys higher, at the base of a 3 black key group. Have the students follow along on their papers.

Demonstrate the correct finger placement on the keyboard. The right middle finger (finger number 3) goes on the F key and the thumb (finger number 2) is on the D.



Using the chart, have the students to play the melody of the first and third lines on the F and D keys. The lyrics of the first line are “Old Dan Tucker was a mighty man,” and the third line is “Combed his hair with a wagon wheel.”

Plan for Independent Practice: Let each student practice singing and playing at his/her own seat. Ask for volunteers to try playing it on the piano with the document projector focused on their hands.

Closure: Repeat the song as a group while the teacher also plays the accompaniment on the piano with the document camera focused on the hammers and strings.

Assessment Based on Objectives: Observe individual students. To further document their accomplishment, record their performance. With the document camera focused on individual students' hands and running through the VCR or computer, records their movements onto videotape. Microphones may also be set up if desired to provide audio.

Adaptations (For Students with Learning Disabilities): enlarge the printed copies of the piano keyboard and color code the notes

Extensions (For Gifted Students): Using the electronic keyboards with headphones, encourage the students to experiment and figure out the melody for the remaining lines of the song. Dramatize the verses and create a dance.

Possible Connections to Other Subjects:

Science- how sound is produced by vibrating strings, how the length and width of the strings affects the pitch

History- rise of minstrel music in the mid-1800s, slavery, racism

Literature- compare and contrast varying folk versions of the song, (teacher must preview and approve of lyrics, as some versions are quite ribald)
See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Dan_Tucker

Creative writing- have students create new verses for the 21st century