

KEY STAGE 3 MUSIC STARTERS

Many music teachers already use practical "warm-ups" at the start of their lessons, being aware of the importance of engaging pupils' attention and concentration as early as possible in the lesson.



The Key Stage 3 Strategy emphasises this need to get all pupils quickly on task and to inject a sense of pace and challenge into the lessons. Starter activities provide an engaging way to begin lessons which involves all pupils creating an expectation that pupils will think and participate in the lesson.



Key Principles

- The activities should normally last between 5 and 10 minutes- keep to your planned timings and keep instructions clear and concise.
- Careful preparation, good classroom management and brisk pace will be needed to ensure their success. Use varied and unusual routines to create motivation.
- The starter objectives do not have to be linked to the main lesson objectives, or to the main teaching activity, though this may often be helpful.
- They can be used for reviewing and consolidating prior learning, occasionally for acquiring new ideas and concepts, and frequently for developing thinking skills.
- Pupils will often be asked to share their ideas and understanding in pairs or small groups.

Pupils gain in confidence and acquire new understanding if they have frequent opportunities to discuss and share their ideas with others. The majority of Starter activities should be based on this principle.

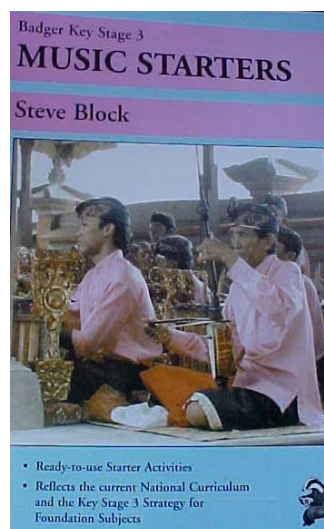
Many starter activities require pupils to work in pairs or groups; this may impact on your seating plan for the lesson. For some activities the pupils will need to sit, or occasionally stand, in a suitable formation, or grouping, and for others adequate desk or floor space will be required. **A flexible classroom is always a good idea for music lessons.**

An added bonus of starter activities is that they give the teacher a useful insight into what the pupils know, understand and can do. Don't miss the opportunity to take note of your pupils' achievement in starter sessions - it is a valuable formative assessment tool. There can also be opportunities if there is time to extend the activity for pupils to be involved in self- and peer-appraisal.

KEY STAGE 3 MUSIC STARTERS by STEVE BLOCK

A new book has just been published with:

- 30 ready to use Starter Activities
- Reflects the current National Curriculum and the Key Stage 3 Strategy Foundation Subjects
- Copymasters for Activities and OHTs, and accompanying CD
- Spiral bound for ease of use



Each starter has the same basic layout:

- **Objective** - outlines the learning focus
- **What you will need** - the resources and pupil organisation required
- **Time** - how long you expect to spend on the activity
- **Activity** - a step-by-step guide to organising and carrying out the starter.
- **NB** - additional notes to support the teacher
- **Increasing the challenge** - suggestions for challenging the pupils, especially the more able (Gifted & Talented)
- **Copymasters** - cards for sorting, question/answer grids, photos and pictures, banks of patterns for practical work etc.
- **Starters CD** - contains the copymasters in electronic form, plus 28 audio tracks, including rhythms and openings of a wide variety of pieces - classical, jazz, pop and world music.

The activities are organised into four main sections, each relating to an area of the National Curriculum programme of study for Music:

Controlling sounds

Creating and developing musical ideas

Listening

Applying knowledge and understanding

This book has been written by Steve Block who is the Music Adviser and KS3 Strategy Consultant for the London Borough of Enfield. It certainly has some very interesting ideas - well worth getting!

KS3 Music Starters with CD Price £37.50 + £2.19 VAT (£39.69)

Badger Publishing Limited www.badger-publishing.co.uk Tel. 01438 747015

ISBN 1 84424 377 X