

**Lesson Plan Title**

The Music of Astrology

**Grade Level**

2nd grade

**Subject Area**

Science

**MSCCRS**

E.2.8.3 Observe and compare the details in images of the moon and planets using the perspective of the naked eye, telescopes, and data from space exploration.

**Art Form**

Music

**MSCCR Creative Arts Standards**

MU: Pr4.2.2 Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation. Analyze the structure and context of varied musical works and their implications for performance. ANALYZE b. When analyzing selected music, read and perform rhythmic and melodic patterns using iconic or standard notation.

MU: Re7.2.2 Perceive and analyze artistic work. Analyze how the structure and context of varied musical works inform the response. ANALYZE a. Describe how specific music concepts are used to support a specific purpose in music

**Duration**

1 Hour

**Materials**

Projector or overhead for showing videos

Speaker for playing music

**Objectives**

Students will understand that eight planets make up the solar system.

Students will understand that Mars is a planet that moves orbits around the sun.

Students will understand the use of musical concepts such as meter and ostinatos used in "Mars" to help them present a planet performance.

**Vocabulary**

Solar System  
Orbit  
Movement  
Planet

### **Music Vocabulary**

Movement - a part of a larger work - Mars is the first movement the "The Planets"

Rhythmic Ostinato - a repeated pattern throughout a piece of music

Melodic line - a melody - the singable part of the song

5/4 Meter - Where there are 5 beats in each measure and the quarter note gets 1 beat.

### **Lesson Description**

TTW review with the class the solar system

TTW begin by asking the students how many planets make up our solar system? (8)

We know that the planets line up in a certain order and orbit the sun in that order.

Today class, I want us to look closer at one planet specifically; that planet is Mars.

The teacher can go straight into the video to dive deeper into Mars, or prior to showing the video, the teacher and students can create a KWL chart about Mars.

The teacher will then show the following video to the class.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-PuUs25rJA>

After previewing the video, the teacher will spark a discussion about Mars. How is Mars different from planet Earth? What did you find most interesting about Mars? Etc.

The teacher will then explain that today we are going to connect our learning about planet Mars to music, and in order to do that, we are going to learn about a special composer named Gustav Holst.

TTW then show the students this short clip to give the children background information on Holst and his piece "The Planets".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkTMbKWAO5E>

After watching the video to give students background knowledge about Holst and "The Planets" have them watch the following clip to get ideas to create their own pieces.

Have them listen to this listening guide first.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdwwzn3X6hE>

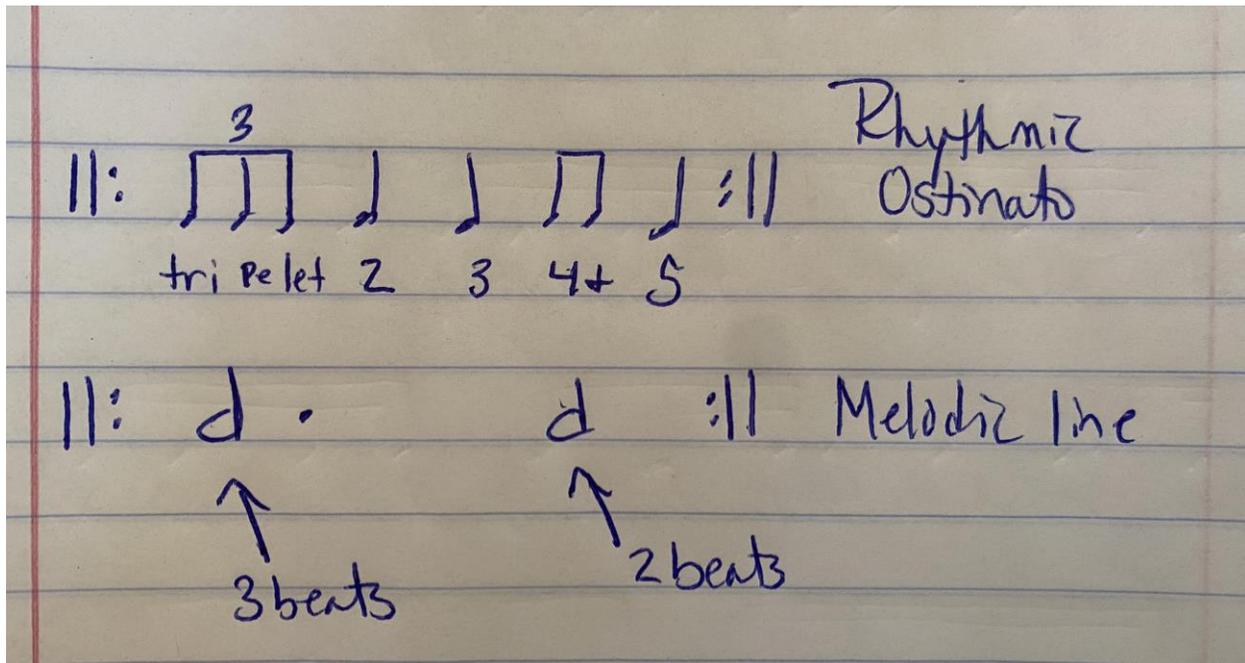
After listening to the listening guide, play the actual piece by the orchestra. Ask students to give you a "thumbs up" if they hear the musical concepts mentioned in the listening guide - the ostinato and the melodic line.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXOanvv4pIU>

Draw the rhythmic ostinato (below) on the board and have them practice tapping pencils to the music.

Once they get the hang of this have them add the melodic line above it with lyrics about mars/planets, etc. (you or kids choose the words) You might need to give them some suggestions or have kids work in groups  
Perform their "Planet Performance" Or "Mars Masterpiece" for the class.

### Recommended Resources



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXOanvv4pIU>

### Extended Learning Activities

Could continue this lesson sequence with the other movements in Holst's "The Planets"

### Sources

N/A

### Tips

I suggest helping students come up with lyrics, for example, "Mars is the red planet, oh yeah!"

### Author

Makenzie Woodward and Rachel Pomeroy

