

Need to memorize a long list of items? Learn to implement this helpful strategy of adding a melody to the words in the list for better retention. This can be applied to memorizing the 50 states, for example, or a vocabulary list.

Standards listed on next page

Supplies: none

Objective

Students will challenge themselves to memorize lists, and will use music as a tool to help them with the memorization process. They will create their own songs, and will share them with their peers..

Outline of Video

1. Creating a song can be a great memorization tool when you need to remember a long or difficult list. In the video, the example of the colors of the rainbow was given. Follow along with the video by patting the rhythm and reciting the colors in order (00:45), and then again when a melody is added (01:38).
2. After singing and patting along, let's test our memories! Can you remember the colors of the rainbow? Pause for discussion (03:07).
3. Take time to discuss what other lists you can think of, where writing a song might be helpful in remembering it. Ex. the 50 US States, US presidents, a vocab list, a monologue, etc. Pause for discussion (03:57).
4. Let's make our own song in order to help us remember a list of marine animals.
 5. Our list is in this order: Fish, dolphin, octopus, sea horse, whale, walrus, oyster, and manatee.
 6. Have students, individually or as a group, come up with a rhythm that they can speak their words to, similarly to how we did at the beginning of the lesson with the colors of the rainbow. Pause to complete (04:45).
 7. Have students, individually or as a group, come up with a simple melody that can be added to the rhythm. Pause to complete (4:55).
 8. Let's hear those lists! If done individually or in small groups, allow time for students to share their compositions with the class. If done as a class, sing the song together a few times to really get that list down. Pause to complete (05:05).

9. A fun part about this activity is that everyone's song will be slightly different. Listen to the song Ms. Liz came up with in the video, and think about how yours is the same or different.
10. After creating a song and listening to others, see if this trick worked! Can you name all 8 marine animals without peeking at the list? Pause to discuss (07:55).
11. DIY at home: Next time you are at the grocery store, create a song from your grocery list. See if it helps you remember what to buy!

National Association for Music Education Standards

MU: Cr1.1.2a Improvise rhythmic and melodic patterns and musical ideas for a specific purpose.