

Lessons 1 and 2: Plans and Activities

Lesson 1: Don't Throw the Flat

Treble: C' D' E $\flat$ ' E' F' G' A $\flat$ ' A' C'' Bass: G, C D G Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5



Lesson and Performance

1. Review the interval of a 3rd. Using a picture of the keyboard, put sticky notes on C and E, resulting in a major third. Repeat beginning on F and G, as in the line above.
2. A flat sign lowers the note by a half step, the very next piano key to the left (move the sticky) resulting in a minor third.
3. Discuss that a **triad** consists of two harmonic thirds. The triad is named from the bottom interval. (Example: If the bottom interval is a major third, the triad is also major.)
4. A major triad is written as a single capital letter (C). A minor triad is a capital letter with a lower case "m" (Cm).
5. Write C, F & G major and minor triads on the board. Distribute tubes. Point to the desired chord and have students play the chord and improvise the rhythm.
6. The lowest note on the bass clef staff is a G. Think of it as **Ground Level G**.

Activity: Just Throw Your Flat!

Materials: C'-D" tubes, at least two sets of notation cards with C, F and G minor triads.

1. Have three students come to the middle of the room and give them an E $\flat$, G $\flat$ or A $\flat$. Divide the rest of the class into three groups and distribute appropriate tubes to have a circle each for C, F and G major chords.
2. This is a silent activity. Draw a card from the chord stack. Show everyone the card. If the card drawn is a C minor chord, the E $\flat$ walks over to the C chord group. Have the group play the major chord first and then the minor.
3. E $\flat$ exchanges the tube for an E and the new person with the E $\flat$ goes to the middle. Continue until all major and minor chords have been heard as time allows.