

GROWING YOUR UKULELE GARDEN

A Practical Approach to Embedding Ukulele into Your Existing Curriculum

Common Vocabulary

Strum
 Chord
 Finger numbers
 String numbers
 Fret numbers
 Neck
 Body
 Fret
 Hands off pegs!
 Point neck to left
 Teacher does not mirror
 Flat against your tummy
 Strum where neck meets body
 Angled uke
 Play with pointer or thumb, not both simultaneously. No pick!
 Rock and Roll Ending

YouTube Resources

Ukulele practice tracks and student demos/concerts:

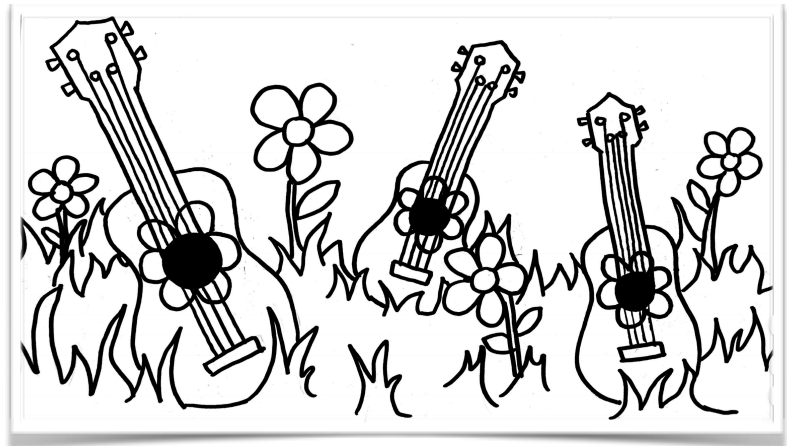


Lisa Eastbrook
829 subscribers

Countless ukulele playalongs:



Ukulele Tenor
19,365 subscribers



1. Passing Ukes

Jugendmusik Für Flöte und Trommel - Kleine Canon #1

Taking turns, taking turns
You and me, it doesn't matter
Taking turns, taking turns
You and me, we'll get our chance

Establish ukulele passing procedure

Keep a steady beat

Hold and strum a uke

- Students sit in a circle with uke at every two or three students
- Teach passing procedure. Consider passing ukuleles to the left. Students who just passed the uke should be the “helpers” to the student he or she pass to.
- During passing procedure have students explore the down strum to the steady beat set by the teachers.
- Once an open chord steady beat is in place, teacher sings song.
- Passing often allows child to be comfortable & natural w/ uke.



Songs You Can Play Now

Are You Sleeping Brother John
 Mary Had a LL
 Jingle Bells (sleigh bells during other chords)
 Jesus Loves Me
 Every song in Orff Volume 1
 Found a peanut
 Echoes/Rhythm Reading

Scaffolding to Consider

Kindergarten - Strumming open chords, tapping, various technique activities, etiquette

1st grade - Open string strumming. Some tune the A string down to G, but it's not necessary. Go tell Aunt Rhody, 5 Little Monkeys, and any *so mi la* songs

2nd grade - C major. All songs in your curriculum that use chord bordun in C

3rd grade - C major to Am Melodies from Volume 1 work great.

4th grade - F in August, F & C7 in November, C & G6 in Spring

5th grade - Review C to G6 then C to G major by September, C/F/ G in January, March the "Fab Four" (C, Am, F, G)

2. Bow Wow Wow

Bow Wow Wow

Folk Song

Bow Wow Wow Who's dog art thou? Lit-tle Tom-my Tuck-ers dog, Bow Wow Wow

Sing a pentatonic folk song

Perform a simple folk dance mixer formation

Perform a question and answer

Isolate left hand ukulele fingers

- Formation: In a circle facing partner. Student facing CW has Uke. Student facing CCW has empty hands.
- Measure 1 - CW use left hand to finger CMaj while right hand supports uke. CCW uses right hand to strum 3 quarter notes.
- Measure 2 - both students wag right finger at partner for "Whose dog art thou?"
- Measure 3 - pass right shoulder and meet up with new partner on "little Tommy Tucker's dog."
- Measure 4 - same as measure 1
- Repeat song 4 times for A Section
- B section - students improvise question and answer phrase 4x:

CW "barks" 4 beat question,
 CCW "barks" 4 beat answer

CW pats body of uke for 4 beat question,
 CCW claps 4 beat answer

CW puts down uke on floor, uses 2, 3, or 4 levels of BP,
 CCW answers using 2, 3, or 4 levels of BP

•Spoken Interlude:

*That was fun but we're not done.
 Let's switch jobs and then
 We change our place, pass the uke
 and sing the song again.*

3. *Sweetly Sing the Donkey*

Sing alone

Keep a steady beat

Hold and Strum a Uke

Sweetly Sing the Donkey

Folk Song

- Students sit in a circle with uke at every two or three students
- Review passing procedure while having students explore the down strum to the steady beat set by the teachers.
- Once steady beat is in place on open chord strum, Teacher sings song, eventually inviting students to take over on the “hee haw.”
- To add to the interest of the song, consider adding a donkey puppet. Once the song is known to the class, the student with the donkey puppet solo sings “hee haw.”
- For extending the activity for older students, consider passing out pitched percussion: Xylos could play a quarter note chord bordun on CG, glockenspiels could play “hee haw” on G C.

4. *Go Count Each Ape*

Go Count Each Ape (C/Am)

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5. Hot Crossed Buns

Key of F, Ukulele w/ Recorder

Recorder: || A- G- F- xx | A- G- F- xx | F F F F G G G G | A- G- F- xx ||

Ukulele: || F- C7- F- xx | F- C7- F- xx | F F F F C7C7C7C7 | F- C7- F- xx ||

6. I Can Play 3 Chords

Read and perform rhythms in beat sets of 8 (4 & 4) sets of 6 (3 & 3) sets of 4, sets of 3 and sets of 2
Practice moving between CM, FM, and GM with time to move “fret hand”

I Can Play 3 Chords

Lisa Langston 2018

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system covers measures 1-4, and the second system covers measures 5-8. The vocal part (Part) is in the soprano clef. The Recorder part (AG/SG) is in the soprano clef. The SM/AM part is in the soprano clef. The Guiro part is in the alto clef. The BX part is in the soprano clef. The score includes lyrics and chord changes: CM (C major) and FM (F major). The lyrics are: "Start-ing on the C ma - jor F is where I've got to go. G is tough but I'll pre - vail Mi Re Do".