

# Teachers Notes

## Planet Rhythm

The workshops are structured to suit various age levels with the aim of being a highly entertaining, exciting and educational journey into the stirring and fascinating world of Rhythm.

Planet Rhythm is rich in content supporting Music, History, English, Geography and raising awareness around and enabling discussion on, Cultural Studies, Drama, Live Performance, Audience Participation, Behavior and Comedy.

## Teachers' Role

It would be wonderful and appreciated if each class teacher would be able to attend the workshop with their students.

Please encourage them to do so as the show always has a few surprises in store involving the staff members which the children love to see.

## Performance Area

- Gymnasium, Hall, Multi Purpose Room, Double Classroom etc.
- 7 x 7 metres for set up
- Stage not required
- Seating – On the floor is preferred and offers the best sightlines.
- Please keep in mind Planet Rhythm is a large production show and close vehicle access to the venue is needed for unloading.
- Space (performance and audience areas) free of chairs/tables etc and available 75 minutes prior to start time or, if possible, after school the day before.

## Contact/Final Preparation

I will contact you a week or two prior to your booking and request numbers of children in each class and also your schools daily timetable (morning and lunchtime breaks)

I will then put together what I think will be a workable format for the day/s for you to peruse. This will give you my idea of times to allow for various age groups. It will be fine, however, if you need to make any changes to this format proposal.

**It will be useful but not imperative to use the preparatory material on pages 2 & 3**

# Teachers Notes

## Suitability, Years 3 – 6/7

During the first section of the hands-on component the children will be taught some very basic, easy to grasp, musical notation values and encouraged to experiment with this concept trying to discover interesting rhythmic patterns.

Some children will also be asked to attempt a simple hands and feet co-ordination exercise and when comfortable they will be invited to execute this ‘beat’ on the drum kit.

The table below details this ‘beat’ and may be used in class, in preparation for the arrival of *Planet Rhythm*.

**R. H. – Right Hand**

**L. H. – Left Hand**

**R. F. – Right Foot**

This exercise can be attempted anywhere - table top, knees, floor etc.

Count - 1 2 3 4 Repeat this count over and over until the children become comfortable coordinating hands and foot. Some children will master this quickly, others with practice and some may not be able to. During the workshop I will quickly ascertain those children who demonstrate an ability to master this beat and just a few will come forward to showcase their talent. We call this count of 1 2 3 4 the ¼ note count.

	1	2	3	4
RH	☺	☺	☺	☺
LH		☺		☺
RF	☺	☺	☺	☺

When trying this exercise in the classroom the teacher should place an emphasis/accent on counts 2 and 4. This should help with students incorporating their left hands.

## Slightly more advanced Years 5 – 6/7

This exercise requires dividing the beat and placing a count of *and* between the ¼ notes. Some children will master this rhythm with practice, for those who cannot, it does not matter, however a basic understanding of this count will be of benefit during section two of the hands-on component. We call this count of 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & the 1/8 note count

	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
RH	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺
LH			☺				☺	
RF	☺		☺		☺		☺	

\*If your booking includes workshops for Kinda, Preps and grades 1 & 2 attempting the exercises above is not necessary as the workshop structure is different for junior primary.

# Teachers Notes

The talk on the history and origins of rhythm and percussion will include reference to many countries and their native drums and percussion instruments – detailed below

<b>Country</b>	<b>Drum/Percussion</b>
Mali *	Djembe
Guinea *	Dun Dun
Ghana	Kpanlogo
Nigeria	Ashiko
Kenya	Clapper Drum
Morocco	Agwal Drum
Cameroon	Agbe
Mozambique	Ad-duff
Gambia	Akoko
Senegal	Kessing Rattle
India *	Tabla, Baya, Nagori
Pakistan	Ocean Drum
Nepal *	Witch Doctors Drum
Tibet *	Damaru, Buk
Turkey*	Darabouka
Cuba	Congas
Brazil	Surdo, Bongos
Chili	Rainstick
Peru	Metal Drum
Ireland	Bohdran
North America	Tar/Shaman (Indian)
Burma	Bongyi
Bolivia *	Guiro
Thailand *	Jungle Drum
Japan	Taiko

Many other small hand drums and percussion instruments are displayed from Indonesia, Asia, Middle East and South America.

It may be of interest to your students to know the location of some of these countries for interaction during the talk and presentation.

Discussion will also include materials used in making various drums – clay/ceramic, wood, metal, fibreglass and animal hides such as calf, deer, pig, goat and snake, lizard, fish and frog skin.

**An asterisk denotes a country that will definitely be mentioned throughout the workshop**