



Affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network



Content Standards

English Language Arts

Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners.

Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Make strategic use of digital media in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

Music

Listen to and compare various musical styles from the United States, other cultures and historical periods.

Incorporate technology and media arts in performing or recording music.

Describe the impact of music technology and innovation upon music careers.

Something from Nothing

The Art of Sample Based Hip Hop Music Production

Educator Guide

Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education

About the Program



Something From Nothing seeks to teach students the original form of creating hip-hop music (sampling), which is the 2nd original American musical art form after jazz. **Rafique Ilyas-Watson** will expose students to a variety of

musical genres and artists through the process of selecting works to sample and will create their own original hip-hop compositions. The program also endeavors to generate critical thinking, social awareness and open discussion of many historical developments. The overall goal of the program is to foster an environment of creativity, expression, and learning.

Objectives

1. **Identify and understand** tempo, measures, rhythm and pitch.
2. **Create** musical compositions using “loops,” drum programming and “chops.”
3. **Use** digital recording software for basic editing and mixing purposes.
4. **Understand** the historical, social, economic and technological factors that led to the development of hip hop music.

Before the Program

Prepare students by watching any number of YouTube videos on sampling with the Akai MPC.

Listen to the original works of music that have been sampled in hip-hop, and then listening to the hip-hop song that was made from that sample.

Watch this lecture by the hip-hop producer and professor at Duke University, 9th Wonder.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3oez_FRogI

After the Program

Continue to have their students read Jeff Chang, watch the YouTube video tutorials on sampling, as well as any number of motion pictures and documentaries on the formation of hip-hop music.

This includes but is not limited to, Beat Street, Wild Style, or Style Wars.

Vocabulary

Tempo: The speed at which a musical composition is or should be played

Loop: A short piece of sampled music that is repeated electronically without interruption

Measures: The measurement of time that holds a precise number of beats that is defined by the time signature

Pitch: The degree of height or depth of a tone or sound

About Rafique Illyas-Watson

Rafique Watson is a veteran sample based music producer seeking to preserve the sonic and cultural integrity of Hip-Hop. Mr. Watson desires to introduce prospective students to the original process of creating hip-hop music through sampling music from various genres, allowing students to create their own original compositions. He has been involved in creating hip hop music for twelve years and has been in the field of education for five. His program is designed to help young people have an appreciation for all musical forms, enjoy the artistic and creative process of musical composition, as well as to generate a social discussion based on the history and evolution of hip hop culture.

Resources

Can't Stop, Won't Stop and Total Chaos: The Art and Aesthetics of Hip-Hop by Jeff Chang

Making Beats: The Art of Sample Based Hip-Hop by Joseph G. Schloss



About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning

Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.

