



Musical Alphabet Cards

Setup: Print the Musical Alphabet Cards pdf onto colorful cardstock paper, so that each set has its own color. Cut out the cards and store in zipper bags. The page of accidental cards can be printed on plain white cardstock so they can be shared among students with differently colored sets.

Instructions: There are many ways to utilize these cards. Here's one activity for introducing the musical alphabet to young beginners:

1. Give a set of cards to each student. On the floor, ask each student to make a snake using the cards in order of the alphabet. Encourage students to be creative with the snake's shape.
2. Ask the students to shuffle their cards, and then make a new snake that doesn't start with "A" this time. Next, ask them to make a snake with the letters going backwards. Then make a snake in a circle. Lastly, ask the students to connect their snake with their neighbor's snake, to make a giant snake. After creating each snake, chant the letters together.
3. Discuss how the musical alphabet is different from the traditional alphabet. Discover the two differences: (1) the musical alphabet only has 7 letters instead of 26, and; (2) the musical alphabet goes in a circle, repeating itself, instead of in a straight line with a beginning and an end.

Other Extensions: label the keys of a floor keyboard using these cards; make "step" and "skip" snakes; build 5-finger patterns or scales for various keys (using accidental cards); or build chords. The sky's the limit!

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