

Music Listening: A Guide to Involving Listening Activities in the Classroom

- 1) **Prepare:** Introduce the music to the students by asking questions about the music or by actively exploring some aspect of what they will hear (example: if they will hear “Twinkle Twinkle,” have them tell you all they know about stars, and then clap one of the rhythms they will hear). Other ways to prepare are to clap a rhythm they will hear in the music, sing a song that is related, read a story that is related, or explore with movement.
- 2) **Listen and Identify:** Play a little bit of the recording (under 1 minute), and ask the students to clap the rhythm they learned when they hear it in the music, or listen for the mood/imagery—something connected to how you set up the listening activity.
- 3) **Participate:** Listen again, this time asking the students to actively participate during the music by moving, following a listening map, following musical notation, writing something (related to what you are asking them to listen for), or drawing something (related to what you are asking them to listen for).
- 4) **Question/Discuss (throughout the whole lesson):** Prompt discussion with questions and allow the students to verbally process what they have learned during listening activity. Questions and discussions should occur all throughout the lesson. Questions should draw students’ attention to aspects of the music, and have them reflect upon their own reactions to the music.
- 5) **Listen Again:** Students need more than one chance to listen to a piece of music. You might return to the music on a different day, but give them multiple chances to hear a piece of music and listen for different aspects of the music.
- 6) **Connect:** Always connect the listening experiences to other musical activities and experiences as well as other subjects. How is this listening activity relevant for the students in their learning? Listen to similar pieces of music or find similar musical aspects. Explore the new concept through other musical experiences, such as singing a song or playing a game that is related.

Information taken from Dr. Sandra Stauffer’s Listening Guide.