

Crossroads and Pathways: Mapping the Artistic Process: (CREATING)- **Elementary** (K. Mero)

Song/Activity: We Are Dancing in the Forest ("Wolf Song")

Grade Levels K-2



Overview

By substituting various locomotor and non-locomotor movements for the word "dancing", students explore many ways of travelling through shared space. This is one of several similar songs/activities that I rotate in K-1 almost every week; sometimes as an opening activity, and sometimes to get us up and moving mid-lesson!

Kindergarten

MU:Cr1.1.Kb

Using a wolf stuffed animal as a prop. I pretend to listen to the wolf tell me how he wants us to move each verse. I hide the wolf behind my back as we sing/move, and at the end of the song, we freeze while the wolf jumps out to see if he can catch anyone moving. Once the children are familiar with the song, I ask "Who is good at listening to wolves talk?" I bring the wolf over to the student, and they "listen" to the wolf and tell us what our next movement is.

First Grade

MU:Cr3.1.1

To make the activity even more expressive, change the way you sing the verse to match the movement (e.g. "run in place" –sing quickly; "tip-toe" – sing quietly with staccato). Once the student listening to the wolf has suggested the movement, ask the class how we should sing to match the movement. After we perform the verse, ask the students if the movement and singing went together well, or if they did not match.

Second Grade

MU:Cr2.1.2a

Add Orff instruments. A small group could play a C-G bourdon. Set up additional instruments in C pentatonic. After we sing a verse, students may improvise 4 measures, using either the rhythm of the melody, or matching the expression of the movement (i.e. "hop" around the notes of the instrument)

Additional ideas:

(from Musical Musings blog) Turn the song into a story: *We slithered through a hollow log to escape the wolf. "We are slithering in the forest. . ." Once we got out, we stretched. "We are stretching in the forest. . ." Then we came upon a pond so we swam. "We are swimming in the forest. . ." When we got out of the pond, we shook to get the water off. "We are shaking in the forest. . ." When we got out of the pond, we realized we were at the top of cliff, so we side stepped at the edge of the cliff until we reached a safer spot "We are side stepping in the forest. . .", then we rolled down the gentle slope. " The possibilities are endless.*