



MORRIS CENTER

FOR LOWCOUNTRY HERITAGE

Grade Levels:

3rd, 4th, and 5th

Duration:

5-10 minutes to introduce the activity

15-20 minutes for discussion

20-30 minutes for activity

Materials:

•Clips of music using call and response

•Drum (optional)

•Paper

•Pencils

SC State Standards:

SCCCR-Social Studies

3.4.1.PR; 4.1.CX; 4.2.CO; 5.2.CX

SCCCR-General Music

GM.CR.NL.1.1; GM.CR.NL.2.2;

GM.P.NH.3.1; GM.P.NL.4.1;

GM.C.NL.8.1

SCCCR-English/Language Arts

3.W.3.1; 4.W.3.1; 5.W.3.1

Call and Response Lesson Plan

Overview

In this study, students will practice the concept of call and response. Through listening and analyzing clips of music, they will identify how call and response is employed within different cultures. Afterwards, students will create their own version of call and response within small groups. Drums can be used to enhance the exercise.

This activity can be done anytime. It connects to the *Soul of the South* exhibition on view at the Morris Center.

Learning Objectives

- Students will recognize that all cultures and time periods use music.
- Students will analyze the use of call and response and how it differs from an echo.
- Students will compose a lyrical call and response.
- Students will use their body and instruments to make music.



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Activity

- Introduce the activity to your students. *We will learn about call and response, and how it is different from an echo. What is an echo? [When a sound is repeated or mimicked.] Call and response in music is when a phrase from a speaker/singer is answered by another person or group. We will listen to some examples of call and response from African, Native American, and African American music traditions.*
- Listen to music clips and discuss with your students.
 - African Drumming and Singing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDdN8GQQ3A8>
 - Native American Drumming and Singing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrKDmn6-d7Q>
 - African-American Work Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MwQcm4eH18>
 - African Call and Response: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRBbkWSqyF8>
 - You can ask the following questions after playing each clip.
 - *Do you notice the call and response?*
 - *Do you hear call and response from the drums? Some of the musicians are using the instruments to respond to the caller.*
 - *Why do you think the singer/singers use call and response?*
 - *Do you use call and response when singing today? Have you heard it in church or at school?*
- *In Native American and African music, call and response can be heard throughout. It is a way to establish community between the people who are playing the music. This tradition can be found in modern types of music from gospel to blues.*
- *You are going to create your own song using call and response. You will break into groups and decide what topic you want your song to be about. Then, you will write lyrics. Think of what the calls will be. You can write these in the form of a question. Then, write down your responses to each call. After you finish writing you can perform the call and response. Don't forget to assign someone to be the caller for the group. [Optional: Students use drums or other instruments to accompany the call and response.]*