

# Thunderstorm Soundscape

Use gradually intensifying sounds to create a thunderstorm right in the classroom!

## WHAT THEY LEARN

Cooperation, imagination, sound exploration and shaping, accelerando/ritardando, crescendo/diminuendo

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Optional: Class set of drums



## WHAT TO DO

### If Using Body Percussion

- Explain that the class is going to create the sounds of a rainstorm by using our hands. Ask the class to keep their voices silent and to make their hands copy yours.
- Begin making the first sound and gradually work through the progression until the height of the storm. Then work backwards until the storm is over
- .For older and larger classes, you may opt to walk around the circle asking the students to begin or change their sound only when you tap their shoulder. Move in order around the circle. This creates overlapping of the sounds as students change sounds one at a time rather than all together.

### If Using Drums

- Begin by distributing the drums, giving a minute for free exploration.
- Cue to stop playing by placing your hands on your head.
- Explain that you are going to create the sounds of a rainstorm by using instruments. Ask the class to keep their voices silent and to make their hands copy yours.
- Begin making the first sound on the drum and gradually work through the progression until the height of the storm. Then work backwards until the storm is over.
- For older and larger classes, you may opt to walk around the circle asking the students to begin or change their sound only when you tap their shoulder. Move in order around the circle. This creates overlapping of the sounds as students change sounds one at a time rather than all together.

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## SOUNDS

If Using Body Percussion, below are the suggested order of sounds.

- **Silence**
- **Wind blows:** Gently begin rubbing your hands together in a slow circular motion. Gradually speed up and transition to rubbing hands back and forth vigorously.
- **Rain starts:** Snap fingers slowly at first, speeding up as you go. This sound may need to be adapted for younger classes that aren't able to snap. Try tapping fingertips together firmly.
- **Hard Rain:** Clap hands together with increasing speed and intensity.
- **Thunder:** Pat lap fast and loud.
- **Reverse:** Without stopping, move backwards through the progression until the storm is over.

## If Using Drums

- **Silence**
- **Wind blows:** Gently begin swooshing your hand around the drum head creating the sound of wind. Start slowly and speed up.
- **Wind blows hard:** Scratch fingernails around the drum in a circular motion.
- **Rain starts:** Tap the drumhead gently with two fingers.
- **Hard rain:** Tap with all fingertips.
- **Thunder:** Pat the drum with full hands, getting louder as you go.
- **Reverse:** Without stopping, move backwards through the progression until the storm is over.

