



# UNIT 1: BAND MUSICIANSHIP: THE FOUR-CHORD TRICK

NAIVIE:			

CLASS:\_\_\_\_

For all lessons go to Oak national academy\_lessons\_subjects\_ks3\_ music\_Band musicianship1: the four-chord trick \_start from lesson 1 "what is the role of chords"

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### SAL

Year 7: Blended Learning UnitSAL: Band Musicianship

2 The Four Chord Trick

• Stretch: Make several different melodies and harmony parts. Can you change the key?

Colour	Knowledge	Skill
Gold	Understands how to create a melody and how to harmonise it with chords.	Can compose a melody and choose the most appropriate chords to harmonise it, plays together fluently.
Yellow	Understands which chords make up I IV V & VI in C major	Can play the chords fluently, can play a four-chord song from start to finish fluently.
Blue	Understand how to build a triadic chord	Is able to play all four chords
Green	Understands that a chord is two or more notes	Is able to play 1 chord
White	Little knowledge of how to play a chord	Not yet able to play a chord

# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Many songs are composed using only 4 chords.      Chord Progressions       V vi   V   1 5 6 4   Vital toes this mean of the composition of th	2. In the key of C Major these chords are C, F, G and A minor.	3. They can also be written as numbers; these are called chords 1, 4 and 5 and can also be written in roman numerals I, IV and V.  C=chord I/ 1 F=chord IV/ 4 G= chord V/ 5 Am =chord vi/ 6	4. To create a chord on the keyboard: Play a note Miss a note, play a note Miss a note Play a note.
5. This type of chord is a triad as we are using three notes played together at the same time.	6. We can learn the chords on different instruments; keyboard/piano, ukulele, guitar or a virtual piano each with a different technique.	7. Primary Chords are:  I/1  IV/4  V/5  These are Major chords and sound happy.	8. Secondary Chords are:  ii/2  iii/3  vi/6 – This chord is a minor chord and sounds mysterious or sad compared to Major chords.
9. Syncopation means emphasising the weak beats when you play and gives the song more energy than  playing on the strong beats.	10. A semitone is the smallest gap between two notes on the piano, guitar or Ukulele.  Tones and Semitones in a Major Scale  Tones and Semitones in a Major Scale	11. A melody is a variety of single notes played together, one after the other.  If you listen to your favourite singer they are singing the melody (single melodic line) over the top of the band and the music underneath.  Any instrument can take the melody line, for example trumpet, violin, guitar.	12. A harmony is when two or more notes are played together at the same time to create a pleasing sound.  Many harmonies are made up of a sequence of chords.

### LESSON 1

### Band Musicianship 1: The fourchord trick

# Please find the link below for the lesson or go to:

Oak national academy\_lessons\_subjects\_ks3\_ music\_Band musicianship1: the four-chord trick\_start from lesson 1 "what is the role of chords"

https://classroom.thenational.ac ademy/lessons/what-is-therole-of-chords-c9hk6c

### What is the role of chords?

In this lesson you will learn all about chords and their role in a piece of music. You will learn how to construct a triad, the difference between major and minor chords, and how to play Am and Em chords on a variety of instruments. Finally, you will be able to show off what you have learned by playing along to a backing track.

If you have a guitar, ukulele or piano at home please use it.

APPS FOR VIRTUAL INSTRUMENT IF NO INSTRUMENTS AT

HOME:

<u>Virtual Piano - Online Piano Keyboard | OnlinePianist</u>
Garage band
Musicca.com



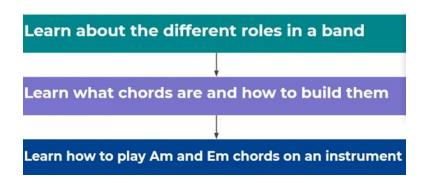
# Connect

watch the video on the four-chord trick: <a href="https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/what-is-the-role-of-chords-c9hk6c">https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/what-is-the-role-of-chords-c9hk6c</a>



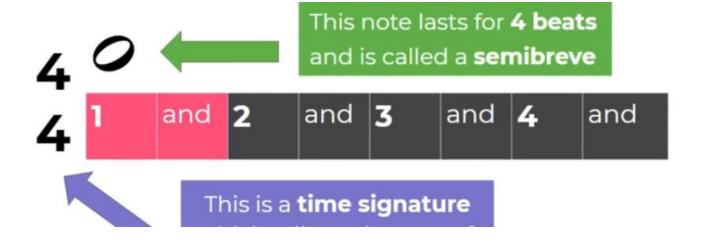
### LI- To learn the role of chords in a band

### Lesson structure



Do the warm-up by clapping the different beats!

It will take you up to 3 minutes 10 seconds in the video



# Activate

### Watch the video and answer the questions:

- How many different songs did you hear?
- What do they all have in common?
- Do you think playing so many songs is difficult?
   Why or why not?



• Write your answers here:

### What is a chord?

13

Can you sing a chord by yourself? If not, why not?

What instruments can play chords?

What do you think a chord is?

Write your answers here:

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

### Watch the video and answer the questions:

9 different songs, and they all used the same chords and chord progression! Wow!



#### What is a chord?

 A chord is two or more pitches played at the same time. Chords are the basis of harmony.



**Triads** are the most common type of chord.



How many notes are in a triad?

**3!** 

### What is a chord?

- Can you sing a chord by yourself? If not, why not?
- No, because you can only sing one note at a time!
- What instruments can play chords?
   Keyboard instruments (piano, organ), guitar, ukulele

# Demonstrate – continue watching the video and get your real or virtual instrument ready To play along!

Work out these triads and play them on a real (or virtual) keyboard:

### Press one, miss one, press one, miss one, press one

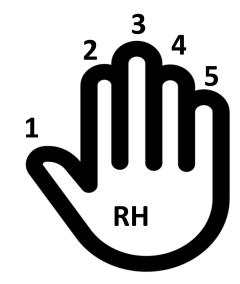
1.F major- start on F, miss one, then

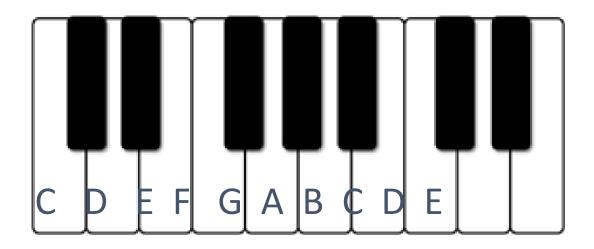
press A, miss one, then press C- You should be pressing F, A and C. Do the same for the other triads below.

2.G major- G,B,D

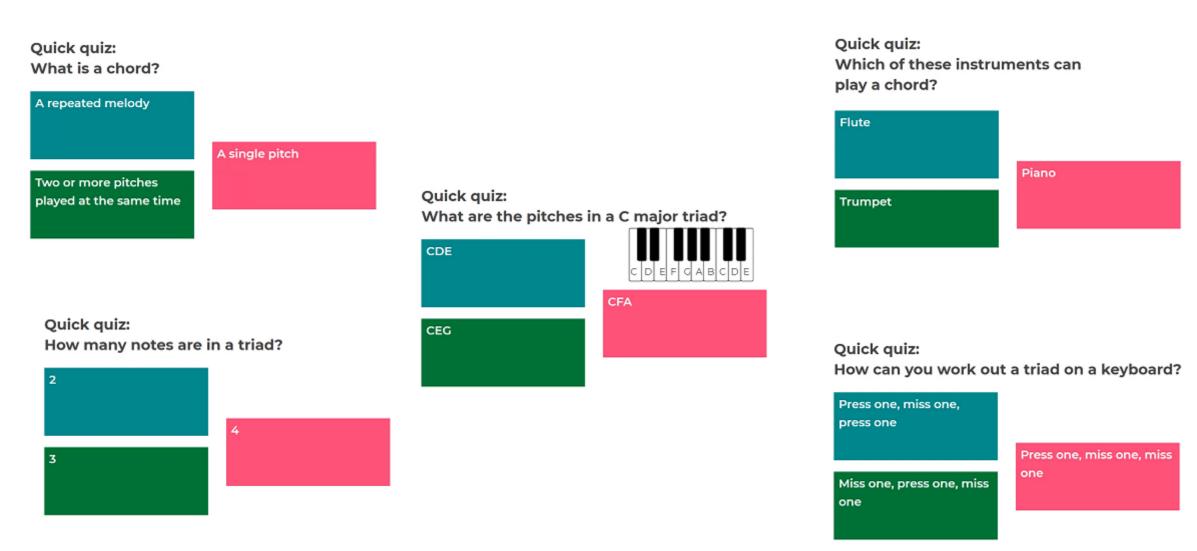
3.E minor- E,G,B

4.A minor- A,C,E



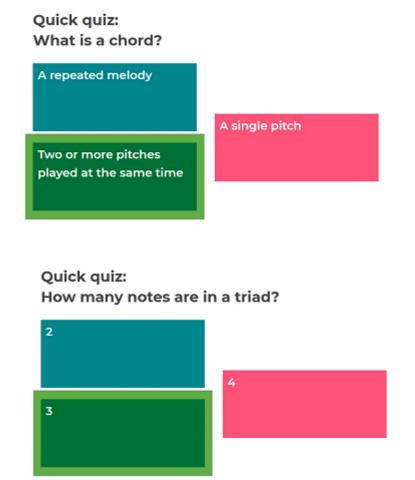


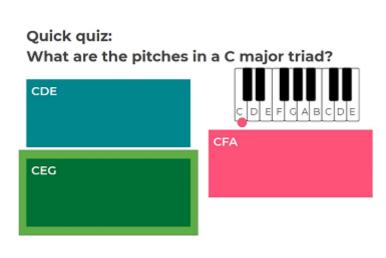
# Consolidate- answer these questions – tick the right answer

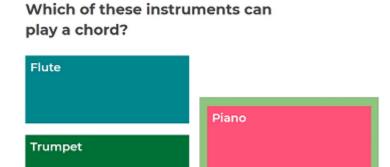


# ANSWERS- SEE ANSWERS HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

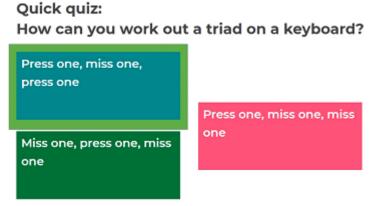
How many did you get right? Write your answer score on this page







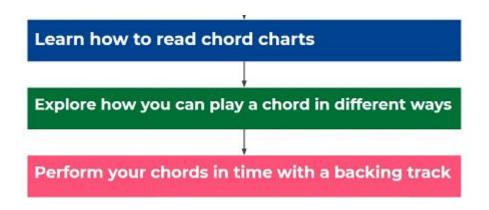
Quick quiz:



Lesson 2 — Watch video from 21 minutes 17 seconds —What is the role of chords video 1 <a href="https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/what-is-the-role-of-chords-c9hk6c">https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/what-is-the-role-of-chords-c9hk6c</a>

# LI- TO PLAY IN TIME WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS IN A BAND/AGAINST A BACKING TRACK

Lesson structure





Please do connect and activate tasks first before accessing the video

# CONNECT- unscramble the guitar parts

### **Guitar Parts**

1. EDNHOUSLO	
2. BGDREI	
3. DEDSLA	
4. TUN	
5. NEKC	
6. EDAFRRBTO	
7. ERFTS	
8. RTSSING	9
9. IGTUNN GSRAE	•nut •neck
10. CEKDSATOH	•fretboard
	•frets •strings •tuning gears •headstock

# Activate- read the DART and answer the questions



#### WHY IS PLAYING IN A BAND SO IMPORTANT?

The modern music has changed drastically since the second half of the 20th century. As a result, many common people began playing music; some of them even became professionals and rock 'n' roll superstars in the process of playing in a band. Today, it's so widespread that almost anyone at some point has considered playing an instrument. Whether you're aiming to become professionals, or whether you just feel like doing it for fun — it doesn't really matter. What's important is that by learning different types of music you get a new voice and a new tool to express yourself.

But is learning how to play all there is to it? Are you supposed to learn all that music theory, techniques, and songs just so you can sit in your room and improvise to a backing track? Well, the whole point of music is to send a message and share it with the rest of the world. In addition, it's even better when you do it together with a few other like-minded individuals that share the same or similar tastes.

### **Development of social and communicational skills**

One of the most obvious benefits is the development of social skills. When playing alone all by yourself, you don't need to communicate with anyone other than yourself. As we said, kids and teenagers like to get together and do things. But socializing, in this case, brings some other challenges in facing issues as a band. And when a problem occurs, there's always a better way for an individual to communicate if they don't like someone else's ideas. This is exactly the thing anyone will be able to learn when playing in a band.

As time goes by, band members might face different challenges in finding common ground on different issues. But through these challenges, young minds learn how to adapt and socialize. Both short-term and long-term results when it comes to social skills will likely surprise you.

# Activate- read the DART and answer the questions ... continued

Playing in a band develops teamwork

This is pretty much related to the social skill improvement that we described above. Doing just about anything with a group of people while having a common goal is what any individual will have to deal with sooner or later in life. And is there a better and more fun way to practice this than to start your own band?

Just think of it – you're writing original stuff or making an arrangement of someone else's music. This requires a lot of input from all the members. And that's exactly how you learn to be a part of the team. You're a <u>guitar player</u> that loves to shred all over the place? Well, in a band, your lead sections are supposed to serve the song, and not the other way around. (In most cases, at least.) And the very act of coordinating every single note that all of the instruments play is extremely important. It's a long and thorough process, but after some time, you learn to think together as a group of individuals in a team with a common goal.

What are the benefits to playing in a band?

What do you think it is important to consider when playing in a band?

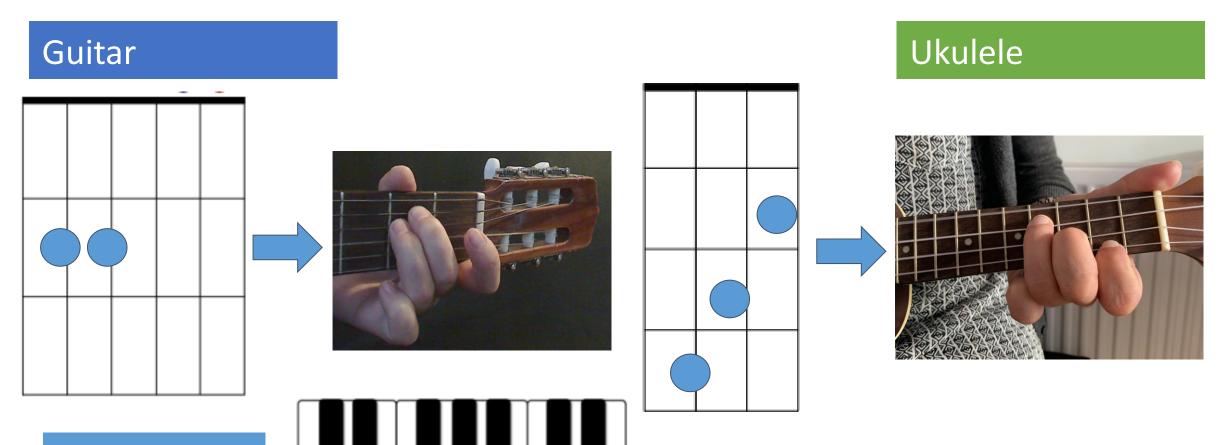
When in a band do you think individual work or team work is better and why? Justify your answer.

# Demonstrate- access the video for practical playing

Play the chords one after another in a chord progression

Playing E minor

Read the chord charts and play the chord on an instrument.



Keyboard

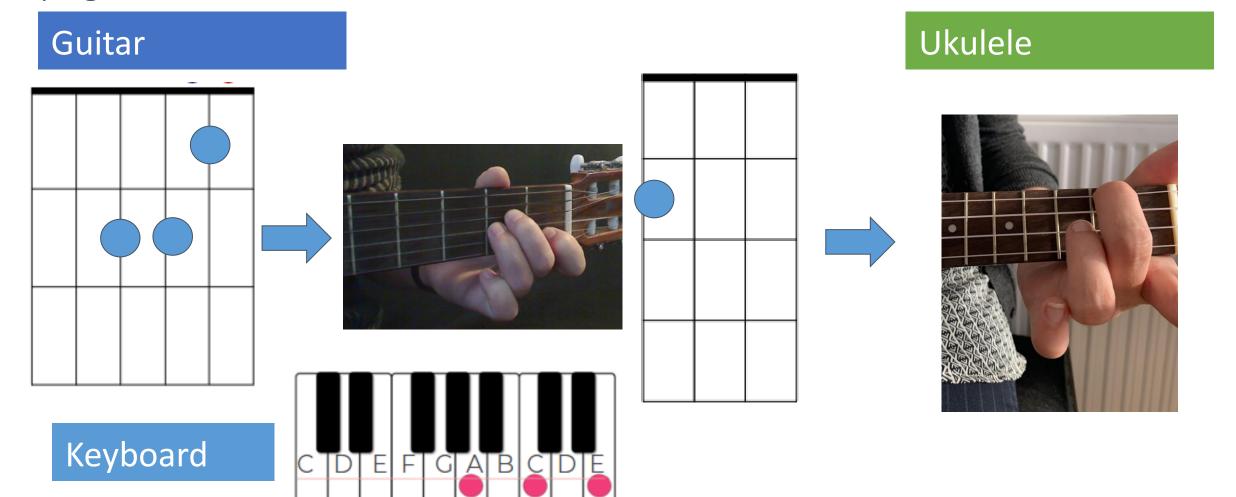
Look through the following chord shapes for guitar and ukulele, Practice the shapes and play along with the video

# DEMONSTRATE - Look through the following chord shapes for guitar and ukulele,

Practice the shapes and play along with the video

Playing A minor

Read the chord charts and play the chord on an instrument.



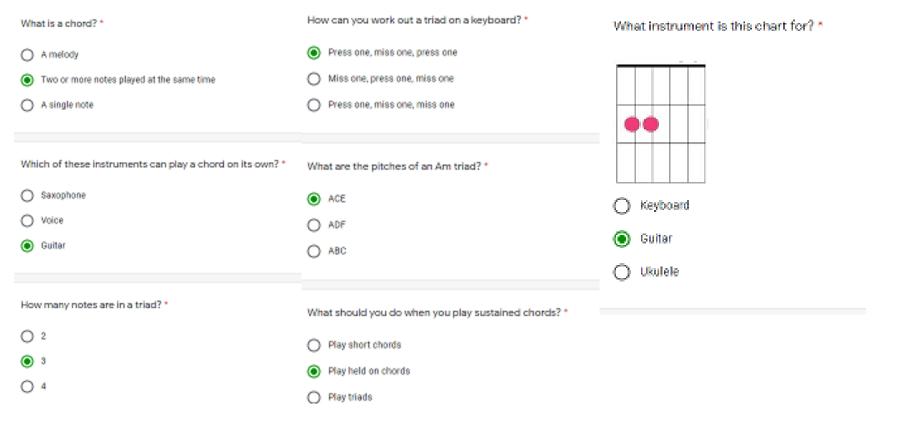
# CONSOLIDATE

# Take the quiz after the

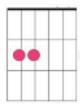
What chord does this chart show? \*

What is the role of chords? Exit quiz	How many notes are in a triad? *		
* Required	O 2	What should you do when you play sustained chords? *	O Em
	O 3	O Play short chords	O Am
What is a chord? *	O 4	O Play held on chords	○ C major
○ A melody		O Play triads	
Two or more notes played at the same time			
O A single note	How can you work out a triad on a keyboard?		What is 'strumming'? *
	Press one, miss one, press one	What instrument is this chart for? *	When you sweep your fingers across the strings
Which of these instruments can play a chord on its own? *	Miss one, press one, miss one		When you pluck the strings
Saxophone	Press one, miss one, miss one		When you hit the strings
○ Voice			
○ Guitar			What fingers can you use to play a triad on the keyboard?
	What are the pitches of an Am triad? *	○ Keyboard	O 1, 2, 3
	○ ACE	O Guiter	O 1,3,5
	○ ADF	O Ukulele	O 1,2,4
	O ABC		

# **ANSWERS**



What chord does this chart show? \*



- Em
- O Am
- O C major

What is 'strumming'? \*

- (i) When you sweep your fingers across the strings
- When you pluck the strings
- When you hit the strings

What fingers can you use to play a triad on the keyboard?\*

- () 1, 2, 3
- ( 1, 3, 5
- $\bigcirc$  1, 2, 4

## Lesson 3

### LI - How do chords help us to identify reggae?

- Please follow the link to access the video on chords and reggae music – video 2 – watch up until 16 minutes 21 seconds
- Please do connect and activate tasks first!
- https://classroom.thenational.aca demy/lessons/how-do-chordshelp-us-to-identify-reggae-6nk3gd



### Lesson structure

Learn about off beat rhythms

Explore typical reggae rhythms

# CONNECT-

# READ THE DART AND ANSWER QUESTIONS Improvising- making the music up on the spot Jamming- playing with others

### **Development of musical skills**

Obviously, such an experience where three, four, or more people are playing together can clearly benefit the musical skills of each individual member. When working together to create perfect harmony, one of the first things young band members learn is how to adapt their dynamics and other aspects of playing. Each member has its own "space" and serves a certain function. This means that everyone has their own sonic territory that should be respected if they want to achieve good results. To put it simply, they'll get the chance to hear and feel music from a different perspective – as a performer and not just a listener. Things can get really interesting and exciting when band members start learning about the wonders of improvisation and jamming. Of course, this is something that more experienced musicians usually do. But even younger and less experienced ones are free to jam and improvise, and it's one of the best ways for them to implement all that boring music theory they learned in practice.

And don't get us started on the whole use of gear and effects. When playing with a group of people, young musicians finally get the chance to realize how their effects should be set and what they actually do.

### **Keywords**

Dynamics- how loud or soft the music is (friends or band mates) informally for fun

### Playing in a band is pretty much mandatory if you're aiming to become a professional musician one day

With all this said, it's pretty obvious that the full band experience is essential for anyone who plans to become a professional musician one day. Yes, there are some specific examples where this might not be that important, like with solo performers. However, even they can benefit to an extent from playing in bands, ensembles, and orchestras.

Depending on the genre, or the specific scope of genres, young musicians will learn how they should play and sound in any desired setting. It's a long process, but it's really a fun one. After all, is there anything more enjoyable than playing in a band?

### Questions

- What are dynamics in music?
- 2. Who would you have a jam with?
- 3. How do you improvise in music?

# ACTIVATE- start watching the video- up until 16 minutes 21 seconds

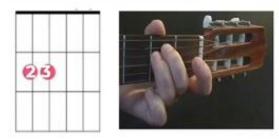
https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/how-do-chords-help-us-to-identify-reggae-6nk3gd

# recap the chords from previous lesson

### Playing E minor

What pitches are in an E minor triad? How do you play it?

### Guitar



### Ukulele





### Playing A minor

What pitches are in an A minor triad? How do you play it?









Keyboard

Use 1, 3, 5



# Demonstrate – Now try your skank reggae rhythm!



# Pause the video to complete your task

Recap Am and Em chords and practise playing in a skank rhythm

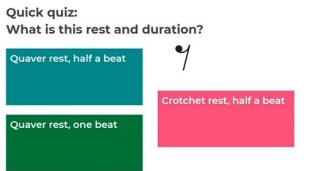
- Play with the correct finger positions
- Try 4 beats per chord
- Slow the tempo down
- If you are struggling to find the off beat, use our chest/hand technique
- Too easy? Play a skank rhythm with two hands on the keyboard/ with other chords you know

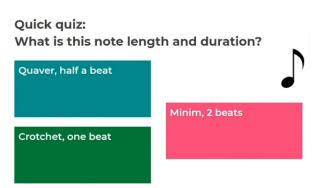




# consolidate- quiz

### **QUESTIONS**write your answers underneath





### What do you already know about reggae?

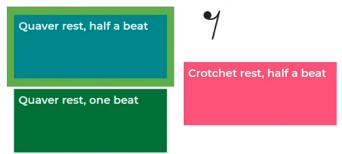
- Where is it from?
- What are reggae songs about?
- What famous reggae musicians do you know?

### What do you already know about reggae? • Where is it from? **Jamaica** • What are reggae songs about?

- Peace, love, religion, political problems
- What famous reggae musicians do you know? **Bob Marley**

### **ANSWERS**





#### Quick quiz: What is this note length and duration?





#### What do we notice about the rhythms used in reggae?

- Are the chords on or off beat? Off beat (skank rhythm / skank chords)
- What effect does this have on the music? It brings energy

#### What do we notice about the rhythms used in reggae?

- Are the chords on or off beat?
- What effect does this have on the music?

# Lesson 4-

# LI- To learn how to play a reggae chord progression and how to play chords in different styles

 Complete connect and activate tasks first please

# Learn how to play a G major chord on your instrument Learn how to play a typical reggae chord progression Explore how to play a chord in different ways

 Please use the link to access the lesson or follow the instructions on he front of your booklet and watch video 2 from 16 minutes 21 seconds to the end when prompted

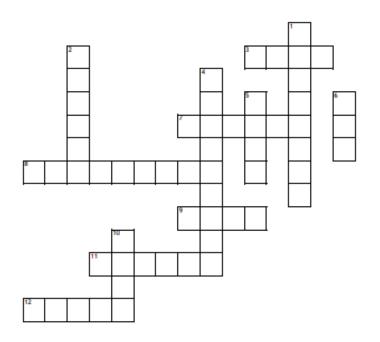
https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/how-do-chords-help-us-to-identify-reggae-6nk3gd



# Connect

### Complete the crossword

### **Guitar Parts Crossword Puzzle**



#### Across

- 3. Also known as the fretboard
- 7. Silver pegs which are used to tighten or loosen the strings of the guitar
- 8. The longest part of the guitar
- 9. Largest part of the guitar
- 11. Where the strings are connected to the body of the guitar; located strings at the bottom
- 12. The narrowest part of the guitar

#### Down

- You play this type of guitar
- 2. Located on the bridge
- 4. Area where sound is projected from the guitar
- 5. The top of the guitar that holds the tuners
- 6. Located on the bottom of the head; upper contact point for the
- - 10. Silver lines on neck; marks all half steps on the guitar

#### Word Bank

Saddle	Tuners	Fretboard	Bridge
Head	Waist	Acoustic	Fret
Neck	Nut	Sound Hole	Body

# Activate- Read the DART ON REGGAE -AND fill in the gaps

Many musical styles don't travel well. You don't hear soca on British pop radio; bhangra never broke big in the US. Even fairly mainstream genres of music fail to translate across the oceans: British indie remains only a cult attraction in the States, and, despite decades of publicity, it's only in recent years that country music has made itself felt in the UK. But one form of music which emanated from just one island in the Caribbean became massive worldwide: reggae music. It is everywhere, whether you notice it or not.

But don't just expect to find it in the obvious places. Reggae's influence is felt (often literally, thanks to heavy bass) wherever rock and pop are played. It echoes in mainstream British pop; it loaned its culture to hip-hop. It's considered "cool" by people with no connection to Jamaica, reggae music's place of origin. It is complex enough to attract progressively-minded musicians; it is accessible enough for anyone to be able to dance to it. It has a certain lyrical gravitas, referring back to Biblical times. It offers a sense of roots to those who wish to demonstrate their authenticity.

### Jamaican music goes mainstream

Jamaican music first became a craze in the mid-50s, a time before reggae existed. Harry Belafonte, who was born in New York, was initially a single of lounge jazz and pop, but he grew increasingly attracted to folkier sounds and found fame in the mid-50s by exploring the acoustic songs his Jamaican mother and father had enjoyed. Marketed as a calypso singer, he sold millions of albums, though his records were some way different from the brassy, satirical and upbeat calypso music that was then the rage in Trinidad And Tobago, calypso's homeland.

### Fill in the gaps

Reggae music has a heavy ...... Reggae music originated in......

Jamaican music first become a craze in the ..... the

# Demonstrate- watch video 2 from 16 minutes 21 seconds to the end and

take part in playing the chords

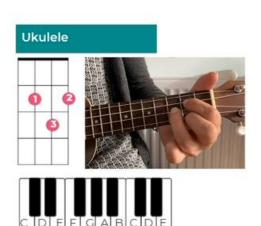
Recap the previous chords learnt: E minor and A minor- go back to lesson 2 for chord diagrams

Do the warm up exercises

Then try making a G Major chord

### Playing G major

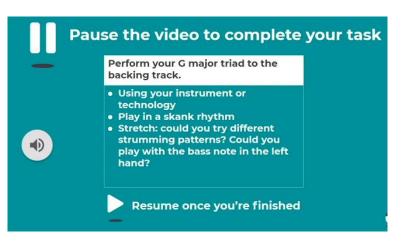


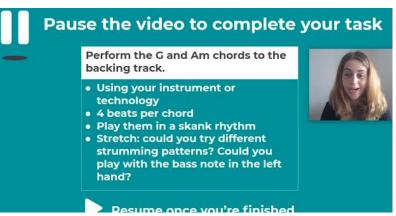


### Link to lesson:

https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/how-do-chords-help-us-to-identify-reggae-6nk3gd

# COMPLETE THE TWO PERFORMING TASKS ON THE VIDEO AS WRITTEN UNDER HERE



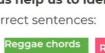


# Consolidate

### Question

#### Our key question: How do chords help us to identify reggae?

Choose the correct sentences:



are played on the beat

makes the music faster

gives the music energy

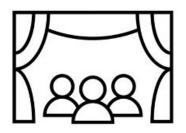
A typical chord Reggae

> chords are played in a skunk rhythm



### Perform what you have learnt to a member in your household

### Perform with the reggae band



- · Watch out for the chords that only last two beats!
- · Practise slowly, and when you are ready, play with the track.
- Get an audience together!

### **Answer**

The reggae

chords are

played in a

skank rhythm

A typical chord

sequence uses

chords next to

each other

### Our key question: How do chords help us to identify reggae?

Choose the correct sentences:

The reggae chords are played in a skank rhythm A typical chord

sequence uses chords next to each other

Reggae chords are played off beat

The rhythm of the chords gives the music energy

Get feedback of what went well and even better if on your performance an write up a sentence on each

What went well....

Even better if....

# Lesson 5

# LI: To learn about the most useful chords in popular music

<u>Link watch video 3 up tp 15 minutes 52 seconds and pause when you need to :</u> Which are the most useful chords? (thenational.academy)

In this lesson you will learn about primary chords and how these can be used to harmonise melodies. You will explore how to play chords in syncopated rhythms and learn how to harmonise your own melody.

Warm up!

**Lesson Structure** 

Learn the three primary chords

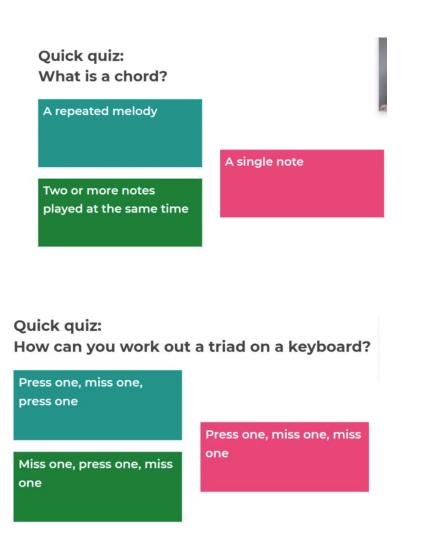
Explore how to play these chords with syncopated rhythms

Watch the video and see how Miss Charatan claps a syncopated beat.

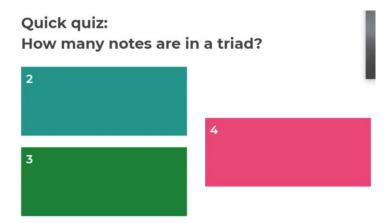
Make up your own syncopated rhythm and clap it! Get someone in your household to listen

# Connect

### Do the quick quiz on the video



Check your answers in the video and write your score under here:



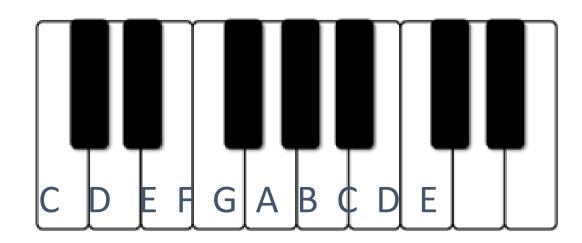
## Activate

Task: work out these triads and play them on a real (or virtual)

### keyboard:

Press one, miss one, press one, miss one, press one

1.F major
2.G major
3.C minor
4.A minor



Remember to start your triad on the root note of the chord, if it's F major you start with the note F, then miss a note and press the next A, then miss a note and press the next one, C.

Once you have worked out all the triads, please play the C Major scale as shown in the video

### A scale is a set of pitches.

These are the **degrees** of the C major scale. The 1st degree is C, the 2nd is D, the 3rd is E, and so on.

С	D	Е	F	G	Α	В
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

# Demonstrate: Building chords

We can build a triad on each of the notes of the scale, using the 'press one, miss one, press one' method.

Try playing all the triads of the C Major scale. More information in the video

G	Α	В	С	D	E	F
E	F	G	Α	В	С	D
С	D	E	F	G	Α	В

**EXAMPLE** 



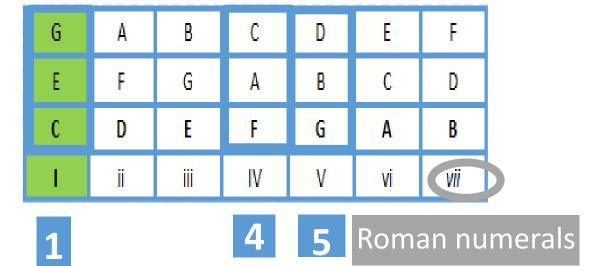
Oh when the saints, go marching in,



I want to be in that number,

Oh when the saints go marching in.

There are some chords more important than others. These are the **primary chords**. They are used to harmonise many melodies. See the Primary chords underneath.



Continue to play all the previous chords learnt, look back to lesson 2 for diagrams and follow along the video. There is a link for the virtual piano in lesson 1

# Consolidate

Stop the video at 15 minutes 52 seconds

 After you have practised playing your chords perform to a member of your household and ask for their feedback

Write your own reflection on your performance using the headings on the right and see how you can improve for your next performance!

What Went Well....

Even better if....