

Riff Lab: play them, name them, score them

Every riff is written in number notes. **1** is Home.

Date _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

To perform riffs accurately and fluently at a steady tempo, and to recognise how a riff is built from a short repeated pattern.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM, KS3 MUSIC

- play and perform confidently ... with accuracy and expression; identify and use the inter-related dimensions of music, including tonality and different types of scales

Bronze

Play all seven riffs with the band; write a score and a tempo for each.

Silver

70% or more on four riffs, and name two of the songs.

Gold

90% or more on a riff at 110 or Full speed, and play its chords too.

DO NOW 5 minutes. No help needed. Start as soon as you sit down.

1. DRAW A LINE FROM EACH WORD TO WHAT IT MEANS

Hook

A short repeated instrumental pattern. Often in the bass line; often opens the song.

Riff

The classical and world-music word for a pattern that repeats obstinately.

Ostinato

The catchy bit you cannot stop humming. A tune, a rhythm or the words.

2. THE TONAL CENTRE IS C. WRITE THE LETTER NAME UNDER EACH NUMBER

Red numbers are the ordinary notes of the scale. Blue numbers are flats, a step lower.

1 **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7**

3. NAME A SONG YOU KNOW THAT IS BUILT ON A RIFF

HOW TO PLAY numbiano.com – Classroom tools – Hooks, Riffs & Ostinatos

- Choose **Play the tune**. Open **Settings. Piece**: pick the riff. **Timing: With the band** — it only keeps score while the band plays.
- Speed**: start on **40** or **50**. Every speed is its own tempo in beats a minute.
- Press **Play**. Count the click in, then play every note on its beat. Under the music: **Last time round — 75%** and your **best**.
- Write your best score and the BPM in the table. Scored 80% or more? Go up a speed and try again.
- Keyboard players: **Connect a keyboard** in Settings, headphones in the keyboard, keyboard's own sound down with the slider.

MAIN TASK Play all seven riffs. Which songs are they?

Riff	I think it is ... (song and artist)	Best score	BPM	Speed
Riff 1		%		
Riff 2		%		
Riff 3		%		
Riff 4		%		
Riff 5		%		
Riff 6		%		
Riff 7		%		

Speeds: 40 • 50 • 60 • 70 • 80 • 95 • 110 beats a minute, and **Full speed** — 125, the record's own tempo. Your best score is the number after the word **best** under the music.

FURTHER Play the chords

Choose **Play the chords**, With the band. Play each chord on the beat it changes. The letters inside the green chord button are the notes.

Riff	Best	BPM
	%	
	%	
	%	

FURTHER Echo

Choose **Echo**, 2 bars. The band plays two bars, then you play the same two bars back. Every turn gets a percentage.

Riff	Best turn	Whole run
	%	%
	%	%
	%	%

PLENARY Think about your playing

WHICH RIFF WAS HARDEST, AND WHAT MADE IT HARD? (THE RHYTHM, THE NOTES, THE SPEED ...)

WHAT DID YOU CHANGE TO GET A HIGHER SCORE?

WHY DO SONGWRITERS USE RIFFS? USE THE WORD REPEATED IN YOUR ANSWER.
