

Bee, Bee, Bumblebee



variety of percussion instruments sounding an ostinato (ta ta ti-ti ta)
game, chant

traditional

Bee Bee, Bumble Bee,
Stung a man upon his knee,
Stung a pig upon his snout,
Goodness me if you're not out.

Counting "out" chants or rhymes began hundreds of years ago. First by adults and then by children, the rhymes are used in a variety of ways and games to choose a person. Participants may be in a line (with the counter moving along the line) or, now, more often in a circle with the counter as part of the circle. One, or both hands are held out. As the rhyme is said, the counter touches, or points to each hand in turn on the beat. The person unlucky (or lucky) to be indicated on the word "out", withdraws that hand. The rhyme is repeated until only one hand remains. This person is the chosen one. Children become very proficient at knowing where to stand, or where to start counting in order to favour friends.

A bumblebee by any other name?

It might be fun to offer some of the name possibilities to your students, brainstorm for other names and then have the class offer opinions as to their favourites and take a class vote, agreeing to use the name for the rest of the school year.

"Bumblebee" probably began as humblebee. Bees buzz or hum. The latin word "bombus" means buzzing or humming sound.

"in Juyll the greshop and the humbylbee in the meadow" 1450 Fysshynge Wyth Angle

"I bomme, as a bombyll bee doth" 1530 work of John Palsgrave"

"the honie-bags steale from the humble Bees" Midsummer Night's Dream

circa 1600 William Shakespeare

"dumbledor" (dumble possibly sounding like the buzz, dor for beetle)

circa 1700 Merriam-Webster

Even though Pierre Latreille assigned the generic name of "bombus" -from the latin for buzzing or humming sound, to bumblebees, in 1859, Charles Darwin, The Origin of Species, writes:

I have [...] reason to believe that humble-bees are indispensable to the fertilisation of the heartsease (Viola tricolor), for other bees do not visit this flower. From experiments which I have tried, I have found that the visits of bees, if not indispensable, are at least highly beneficial to the fertilisation of our clovers; but humble-bees alone visit the common red clover (Trifolium pratense), as other bees cannot reach the nectar.

Dance(A) & Drama(B) 
Music(C) 

If you regularly have two music times a week, you may want to begin today with composition presentations.

Warm-Ups(3 minutes)

Body: Making Faces

Practice and Review

Songs: any of the "bug" repertoire

Music & Movement/Dance

a favourite dance from the repertoire

Optional Ideas

A **Composition Presentations**

B **Counting Out Chants**

Bee Bee Bumblebee

C **Song**

I'm Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee

A Look ahead to Lesson 31 to find an outline for composition presentations. The first few presentations will take longer as students become familiar with the process. Accomodate the extra time needed by planning only 2 or 3 presentations today.

B **1** Adapt the introduction to your own experience, either as a child or as a teacher supervising the schoolyard.

"When we had recess we used to play games that needed somebody to be "it". The "it" person was picked by using a rhyme. My favourite was One potato, two potato ... Does anyone know that one here? No/yes ---how do you decide who to pick to be "it"?"

Give students an opportunity to do any counting out chants that they know.

2 Teach the Bumble Bee chant words. Clap as you teach the words to emphasize the beat, as the beat is used for counting out.

3 Use the chant as a game in itself. All students form a circle. The teacher is the first bumblebee. As everyone says the rhyme, the teacher goes around tapping each person on the knee or nose. The person counted "out" is the next bee in the centre of the circle.

Bee Bee, Bumble Bee,
 Stung a man upon his knee,
 Stung a pig upon his snout,
 Goodness me if you're not out.

A traditional schoolyard way of "counting out" to eliminate people.

Counting out may be done in many ways using rhymes.

Players sit/stand in a circle. (larger groups)The "counting person" goes around the outside of the circle lightly tapping the back of each student until the word "out" --this person steps out and the chant is done again. OR (small groups)Players stand in a circle with their hand/hands stretched out into the middle of the circle. The "counting person" taps each hand etc.

I'm Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee

Key G, first note low so(D)
 a cappella count-in: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 I'm

traditional
 arr: LJ Clare



I'm bringing home my ba-by bum-ble-bee, Won't my mom-my be so proud of me, I'm



bring-ing home my ba - by bum - ble - bee, Oo! Ee! It stung me!

Children relish the messiness of these traditional words.

If you prefer an ecologically responsible version you could try these words.

I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee
 won't my mommy be so proud of me
 I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee
 Ooo, ee, it stung me!

I'm squishing up my baby bumblebee,
 Won't my mommy be so proud of me!
 I'm squishing up my baby bumblebee,
 Oo! Ee! It's all over me!

I'm licking up my baby bumblebee,
 Won't my mommy be so proud of me!
 I'm licking up my baby bumblebee.
 Oo! Ee! It's inside of me!

I'm bringing up my baby bumble bee
 Won't my mommy be so proud of me
 I'm bring up my baby bumble bee.
 Oo! Ee! It's all over me again.

I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee
 Won't my mommy be so proud of me
 I'm bringing home my baby bumble bee
 Oo! Ee! Mommy clean me!

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I'm looking for a baby bumblebee
 Won't my Mommy be so proud of me
 I'm looking for a baby bumblebee
 Oo Ee I found one!

I'm following the baby bumblebee
 While it flies around a great big tree
 I'm following the baby bumblebee
 Oo Ee It landed!

I'm watching while the baby bumblebee
 Rubs its bum in the flowers that I see
 I'm watching while the baby bumblebee
 Oo Ee It's leaving.

Off it buzzed that baby bumblebee
 Flying fast and flying free
 Off it buzzed that baby bumblebee
 Oo Ee Away it goes

I'm hoping that the baby bumblebee
 Helps to make some honey just for me
 I'm hoping that the baby bumblebee
 Yum, yum, honey and toast for me!!!

Many students will know this song from kindergarten. Enjoy singing the traditional words with your class. Then, post words to the "ecological" version and challenge students to sing the new words by sight-reading them.

In discussion with students explore ideas around changing words in songs:

e.g. Which version do students prefer? Why?

(I wassail between liking the silliness of the traditional words,
 and the important message for today of the new ones.)

Lesson Plan for 30 ends here..