

The Ants Go Marching

Key Em Traditional

United States 1800s

Marching songs are intended to keep feet moving and in sync as they go. First in the Civil War, and now commonly sung by children, this tune is a great way to help students feel the beat through the power of group movement. Take the song out on the schoolyard for a "real life" try



snare drum, fife, bass drum
supplementary, 1, beat, movement, counting

The Ants Go Marching

Key Em, first note low so(B)

a cappella count-in: 1--2--1--2--the...

traditional

The ants go march-ing one by one, hur - rah, hur - rah. The
ants go march-ing one by one hur - rah, hur - rah. The ants go march-ing
one by one, the lit - tle one stops to suck his thumb and they
all go march-ing down to the ground to get out of the rain, boom boom boom...

1 suck its thumb

2 tie its shoe

3 climb a tree

4 shut the door

5 "I'm alive!"

6 pick up sticks

7 rhyme 11

8 try to skate

9 check the time

10 cause it's the end

The Ants Go Marching

Key Em, first note low so(B)

a cappella count-in: 1--2--1--2-the...

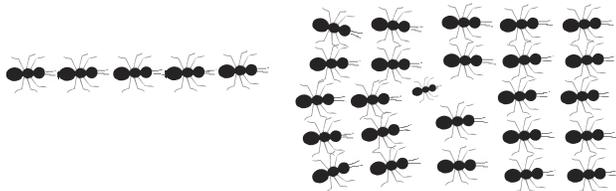
traditional

The ants go march-ing one by one, hur - rah, hur - rah. The
ants go march-ing one by one hur - rah, hur - rah. The ants go march-ing
one by one, the lit - tle one stops to suck his thumb and they
all go march-ing down to the ground to get out of the rain, boom boom boom...

one by one	to suck his thumb
two by two	to tie her shoe
three by three	to climb a tree
four by four	to shut the door
five by five	to shout, "I'm alive!"
six by six	to pick up sticks
seven by seven	to rhyme eleven
eight by eight	to try to skate
nine by nine	to check the time
ten by ten	to say "the end"

(the song ends abruptly after "the end")

- 1** suck its thumb
- 2** tie its shoe
- 3** climb a tree
- 4** shut the door
- 5** "I'm alive!"
- 6** pick up sticks
- 7** rhyme 11
- 8** try to skate
- 9** check the time
- 10** cause it's the end



Create your own class version by choosing new rhymes for each of the numbers.

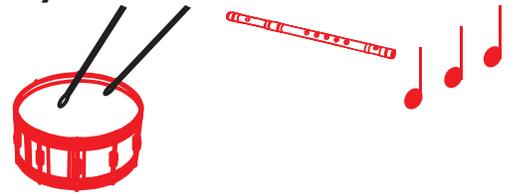
"The Ants Came Marching" is a variation of a civil war song, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again." Ants do live in "armies" and leaf cutter ants are famous for the lengths of their marching lines to and from the nest.



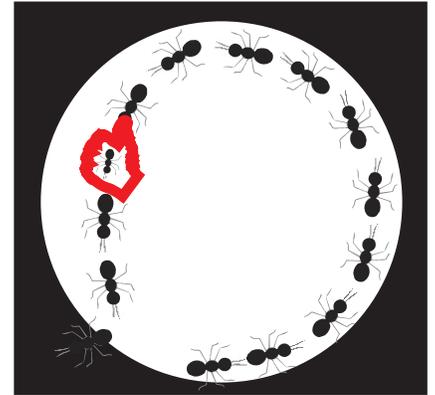
Marching is an excellent way of helping students to find and keep the beat.

Music & Movement/Dance Reflection and Analysis

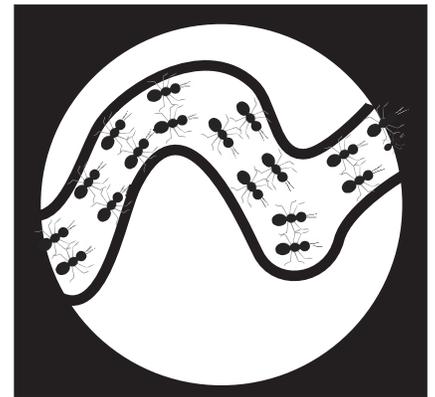
1. Play the music and move freely to "La Cucaracha."



2. Gather students back together in the meeting place.
Ask: **"As the music was playing, we were moving.**
Were we dancing?
How do you know we were dancing?
When you run in the gym, are you dancing? Why?
When we sing and move to "When I Was One,"
are we dancing? Why?
Where have you seen people dancing?"



3. **"Today there's a new piece of music for moving. It has some instructions in it for how to move. Listen carefully and try to remember as many instructions as you can.** Play or sing, "The Ants Came Marching." *If I'm singing, I sometimes limit the song to 5 verses.*



4. Challenge students to come up with the eleven instructions (10 verses + marching).
"Are the ants dancing?
Is marching a kind of dancing.
Why or why not?"

(This is one of those questions where there isn't a clear answer so encourage imaginative thinking.)

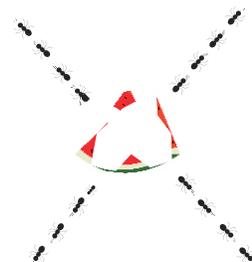
5. Explain briefly that there are ants who march (leaf cutter ants) and there are ants who are called army ants. Talk about characteristics of marching (straight lines, arms swing, everyone starts with the left leg moving out first, possibly knees high). Play a few verses of the song for students to march freely. Then attempt to have students march in twos, threes, lines, etc. exploring different combinations of marching formations.



New Repertoire



Bugs on the Ceiling
The Ants Go Marching



1 suck its
thumb

6 pick up
sticks

2 tie a
shoe

7 rhyme
eleven

3 climb a
tree

8 try to
skate

4 shut the
door

9 check the
time

5 shout
"I'm alive!"

10 cause its
THE END.