Playful Pedagogy™ Process and Unpredictability

Ideas anyone can take home to their classroom and begin to incorporate in the practice. Our individual relationship with the moon frames the music and movement exploration unfolding into a series of unpredictable events that steers our lunar adventure to a delightful culmination! Ukuleles and recorders are welcome.

Lunar Perspectives

We all see the moon. We all see the same moon differently.

What fascinating things, magical things, curious things, or common-place things could you share with us about the moon?
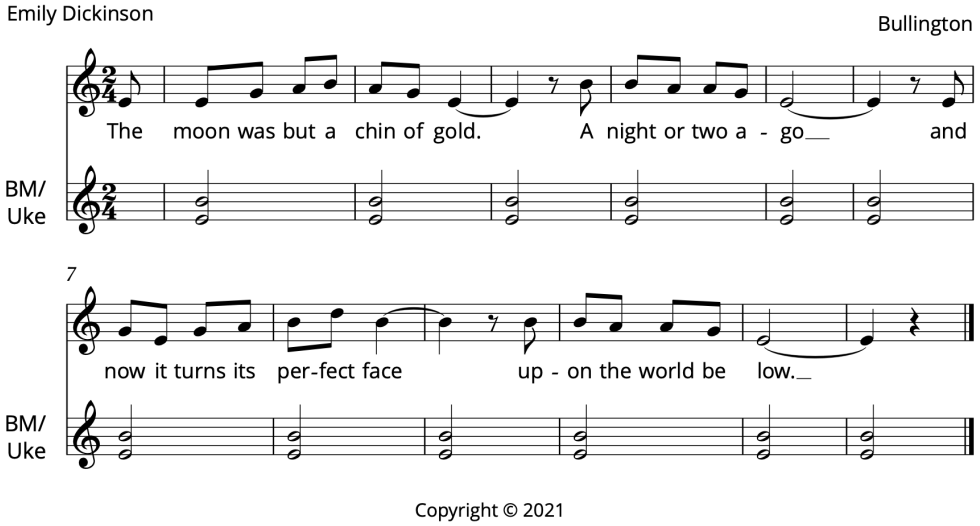
Emily Dickinson's Lunar Perspective

The moon was but a chin of gold
A night or two ago.
And now it turns its perfect face
Upon the world below.

~Emily Dickinson

(adapted by Drue Bullington)

The Moon Was But A Chin of Gold - A Musical Setting



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This piece has a way of eluding any given meter. Allow it to be unbound if that feels good for you and your students.

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Phases of the Moon



Waxing Crescent | First Quarter | Waxing Gibbous | Full Moon | Waning Gibbous | Last Quarter | Waning Crescent

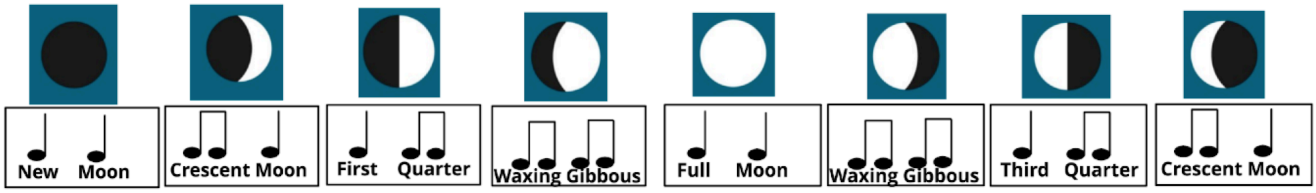
Explore the light and dark of the different phases of the moon. Your whole body is the moon, and when it is “lit up” by the sun, how can that part become featured and interesting while the other side of your body remains calm, unlit by the sun.
Music Used:
Secret Kissing of the Sun and Moon - Hang Massive
Borrowing Paint Supplies - Chanda Dancy



Moon Phase Hand Drumming

How is your hand drum like the moon? Can it move like the moon? How can you move to show what you know about the moon? What about adding a cellphone flashlight? Can you create a way to move with your hand drum with the Emily Dickinson poem?
Explore the movement possibilities this poem has to offer you with your hand drum.

Hand drum techniques can be discovered and explored through playing with the phases of the moon.
Explore hand drum technique through moon phases. Down stroke with your thumb at the “bottom of the slide”, and up stroke with your middle and ring fingers at the “top of the slide.” Then, downstroke when the moon is lit on that side, and upstroke when it is dark.



⇧ ⇧ ⇧⇧ ⇩ ⇧ ⇩⇩ ⇧⇧ ⇩⇩ ⇩ ⇩ ⇩⇩⇧⇧ ⇩ ⇧⇧ ⇩⇩ ⇧

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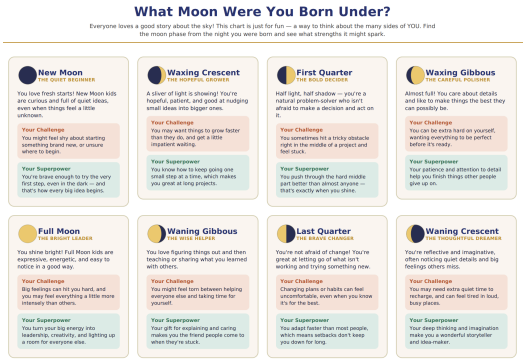
Musical Mosaics in Motion!

[Presentation Slides]

Improvise!

Begin with echo/copies 4 phases long.
Then don't copy - i.e. musicians have to do something other than what you did.
Then free exploration within a structure of 4 phases in length.
Leader begins, and then the group responds.
Form partner echo groups.

What Moon Phase Were You Born Under?



[Check out this website] that offers a calendar that will tell you exactly what the moon phase was on your birthday.
[Kid-Friendly Moon Phase Birthday Chart] (Printable)

Lune Poem Exploration

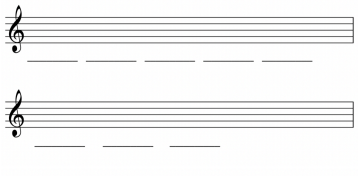
- Kelly Lune - Created by Robert Kelly (From New York) in the 1960s
- He was frustrated with the Japanese Haiku form.
- The Lune is referred to now as the "American" Haiku
- Simple rules related to the syllables in each line
    - First line - 5 Syllables
    - Second line - 3 Syllables
    - Third line - 5 Syllables
- It was named after its shape, which resembles a crescent moon.
- More [Lune Poem Information]

Create a Lune Poem based on your birthday's moon phase.

Syllables	Poem
5	
3	
5	

[Printable Lune Poem Template] Lyrics Only

Moon Phase Lune Poem - Melody - E

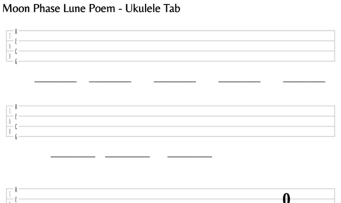


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Moon Phase Lune Poem - Ukulele Tab

Name_____

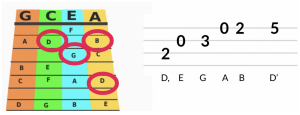




← Lune Poem Template for Barred Instruments and Recorders

Lune Poem Template for Ukuleles→
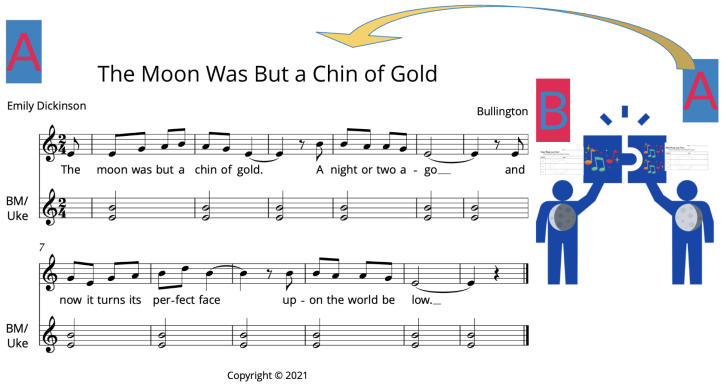
Share with another group



Share your creation with another group, and then allow them the opportunity to share with you and your partner.

Culminating Aesthetic Synthesis Experience

Every aspect of our time together comes together in this final activity where we all begin and end with moving and singing the moon poem of Emily Dickinson with a B section of your own creativity in collaboration with a partner or small group.



Conclusion:

Brief reflection on process and global mosaic art connections.

Thank you!

Presentation Slides **Added Nov 6, 2026* →

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