

Episode 1: Exploring Timbre and Tone with a Spaceship (using vowels)

Student learning objectives:

- I can identify and describe tone color
- I can perform different vowel tone colors

Activity 1: 15 - 20 min

- Teacher explains that sound is made from **vibrations**. (vocal chords (singing), instrument vibrations (brass=buzzing, woodwinds=reeds, strings=plucking/bowing), and everyday objects.
- Teacher asks students about sounds they enjoy listening to? Nice sounds? Harsh sounds? Beautiful sounds? Scary sounds?
- Teacher describes timbre as what makes every sound unique and tone is a consistent great sound.
- Teacher plays or performs contrasting tone examples (instruments, vocal, drone)
- Teacher sings on grade level fundamental pitch exaggerating vowel placement (i.e. "F" "G". "I can sing a smooth tone - Vroom")

Vroom -solid line ("I can sing a smooth tone")

Vriim – jagged line ("I can sing a bright tone")

Vreem -squiggle line ("I can sing a tense tone")

Vroam -thick line ("I can sing a dark tone")

Vraam -wavy line ("I can sing a breathy tone")

- Teacher draws tone line examples for each vowel tone.
- Have students draw spaceship tone lines on worksheet as they listen to examples to "see" the sound they hear.
- Extended Lesson: Create your own picture using spaceship tone lines. What would the tone lines sound like? Share pictures and have students sing their tone pictures.

Activity 2: (10-15 min)

- Teacher has students "fly around room" in space (silent)
- Teacher has students move around the room auditing and mimicking "Vroom" (Oo and hum) and or other spaceship noises and exclamations. (play "ET Theme" or "The Planets" listening example (1min) while students "Fly around room" vocalizing and freeze when music stops)
- Teacher has students echo "Vroom" matching pitch, then and siren calls (up and down vocalization) (try different tone vowels "Vreem" "Vraam" "Vriim" "Vroam" etc.) (buzzing lips, humming)
- Teacher has students echo "Vroom" on a "C" pitch (try different vowels "Vreem" "Vraam" "Vriim" etc.
- Teacher has students echo "Vroom" on grade appropriate interval or melodic lines.
- Teacher has students echo "Vroom" in different vowel placements:

Dark/warm (egg in your mouth)

light/harsh (very forward and nasal)

Airy/thin (hoo)

Humming (Mmm)

Discussion: What did you hear differently in the sound you made? (dark, light, airy, humming)
Which was your favorite? Have students choose, vocalize, and teacher and class echo.

Extended lesson: John Williams or Gustav Holst spotlight

Recommended Items:

- character cards/power point
- Listening examples: [John Williams](#), Gustav Holst (boise phil learning resources, youtube, spotify)
- [Digital Drone Generator](#)