

**BIG  
BANG**

# THEORY!



**Artie Almeida, Clinician**  
**UTAH MEA, 2017**  
**Sponsor: JW Pepper**

**1. Body Percussion Echoes & Flash Card Series** (Flash cards available for download: [www.artiealmeida.com](http://www.artiealmeida.com))

**2. Poison Rhythm** Pick a rhythm to be the poison rhythm and display briefly. Begin clapping patterns for students to echo. If you clap the poison rhythm and anyone claps it back to you (even just the first note!) they are “poisoned.” They scream, fall back on the floor and wait for the paramedics to arrive. Move quickly through a lot of patterns, and if you do three turns in a row with no one being poisoned – the students win! ☺

**3. Pipe Cleaner Note Galleries**

Start a piece of interesting background music and ham it up as the “note artist.” My music for today was “**Anywhere Is**” by **Enya**. Using large pipe cleaners, start with a whole note, then half, quarter, beamed eighths, single eighth, quarter rest. Then pass out small pipe cleaners to children and create the notes one at a time. Children should lay them out in order (largest to smallest value) in front of them in a row. Start a new piece of music (or repeat the previous piece) and have students walk through the Note Gallery, enjoying all the great efforts of their classmates. I got my huge pipe cleaners at Lakeshore Learning. I got the small pipe cleaners – which are called Chenille Stems – through our county supply warehouse. They were very inexpensive! They are also available at Walmart and Dollar Stores.

**4. NoteMan!** (Download PPT from my website)

This fabulous activity was sent to me by Ashley Brown and Shari Wright, two elementary music educators from North Carolina. They have graciously allowed me to share this wonderful resource with you. Go to [artiealmeida.com](http://artiealmeida.com) to download the PPT. I use this as my springboard into a Sidewalk Chalk NoteMan Gallery. The children called them “NoteDudes” and “NoteChicks.” ☺ I get the large, colorful sidewalk chalk at Walmart. Be sure to do this activity at the end of class and have hand wipes ready for the children as they leave. I pre-draw the sidewalk chalk boxes before the class arrives.

**5. Note Values with Super Stretchy** (Download note value PDF from website)

Using a medium or large stretchy band, design movements for each note value. Practice each note value to a recorded accompaniment. Example: Whole notes= 4-count “waves,” moving hands up for four beats, then down for four beats, Half notes=Super Stretchy above head, stepping half notes around circle, Quarter notes=shakes to the quarter beat facing center, Eighth notes=shakes to the eighth note value, with hands moving up and down separately like “bicycle pedals”. **Our music today was the “oldie” Sugar, Sugar.**

**6. Proficiency Packs:** (10 are in publication, 5 with CD support) Available at JW Pepper booth.

- **Rhythm Rockets**

**7. Music Madness: Totally Terrific Interactive Games** (Published by Heritage Music Press. Available at JWP)

These games were originally designed (in my early days of teaching!) as folder-type games, with flash cards, dice, visuals, manipulatives, etc. They have now been updated interactively with fantastic graphics, engaging animation, fast-paced competition, comedic narration and creative custom music.

Each game features a learning goal that can be displayed at any time, a review (lesson taught via the game character), the game itself, and most of the games contain an assessment piece as well. Leveled Play as well as Team and Individual options will provide you with many ways to use this child-appealing technology in your classroom.

**The eight games each address a specific musical concept:**



- ♪ **An Apple A Day – Note and Rest Values**
- ♪ **Aquatic Adventures – Rhythm Patterns**
- ♪ **Dunk the Teacher – Pitches on a Staff**
- ♪ **Galactic Goonies – Melodic Direction & Intervals**



- ♪ Eggs-plosion! – Music Vocabulary Terms
- ♪ Football Frenzy – Instrument Families
- ♪ Dynamite Dynamics – Dynamics Markings & Definitions
- ♪ Percussion Penguins – Non-Pitched Percussion Timbres



**8. Rocky Mountain Drum Game** (American Folk Song)

Teach melody, showing the direction with hand levels. Discuss the four note values to be reviewed (whole, half, quarter, eighths). Clap whole notes while singing the A section. Ask students how many occurred. Repeat with other three note values. Perform entire song with clapping game: Pat the value on your own lap, move one leg to the right, then your own lap again, then one leg to the left. During each B section sing only, with no movement. Transfer clapping to drums. It is helpful if teacher displays a visual of each note value as it is performed.

Roc - ky moun - tain, roc - ky moun - tain, roc - ky moun - tain high.

3  
When you're on that roc - ky moun - tain, hang your head and cry.

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**About the Clinician**

Dr. Artie Almeida recently retired after 37 years of teaching. She was the music specialist at Bear Lake Elementary school in the Orlando FL area, where she taught 1160 K-5 students. Her dynamic performing groups have performed for NAFME, AOSA, and on the NBC Today Show. Look for *The Bear Lake Sound* in the upcoming music education advocacy documentary “Marching Beyond Halftime.”

Artie was chosen as Florida Music Educator of the Year, and was also selected as an International Educator 2006 by the Cambridge England Biographical Society. She was a Teacher of the Year at the school level 6 times, Seminole County Teacher of the Year and was recently chosen as a University of Central Florida Alumni of the Decade. She has presented music education clinics in 44 states and 4 countries, and is the author of 37 published music education resources.

In addition to her public school teaching duties, Artie is an adjunct professor at the University of Central Florida, teaches applied saxophone lessons and performs on historical winds with the early music ensembles *Ars Antiqua* and *The Halifax Consort*. In her spare time Artie enjoys reading, bird watching and traveling with her husband, John.