

The Great Rhythmobile Adventure

STUDY BOOKLET



HISTORY

THE SEARCH FOR THE LOST RHYTHM!

This is the story of a driver named Captain Kit Crash and his loyal mechanic Whiplash who take part in a rally in their Rhythmobile. Suddenly, their vehicle runs out of gas. It's impossible to continue the race without first filling up the tank. But what exactly should it be filled with? Rhythm, of course!

Captain Kit Crash and Whiplash must get the Rhythmobile up and running as soon as possible. The clock is ticking, and they must work fast if they want to win the race!



COLOURFUL CHARACTERS

CAPTAIN KIT CRASH



Captain Kit Crash is an adventurous driver who wants to win the race at any cost. He isn't always very patient, and he'll need his partner's help to get the Rhythmobile started again.

WHIPLASH



A somewhat shy mechanic, Whiplash has a very active imagination. He will have to get over his shyness and share his ideas with his friend so that they can continue their expedition.

A RALLY CAN BE TONS OF FUN!

OUR RHYTHM EXPLORERS WERE TAKING PART IN A RALLY

WHEN THEIR RHYTHMOBILE SUDDENLY BROKE DOWN...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A RALLY IS?

A rally is a little like a treasure hunt! The participants or participating teams must try to get to the finish line first, guided by a series of clues they find along the way. Rallies are held all over the world. There are rallies that take place in jungles, in deserts, in cities... Rallies even use various forms of transportation, depending on the rules of the particular rally. A foot rally with friends isn't all that complicated to organize! Give it a try!

A BREAK DOWN— WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

“Breaking down” means not being able to go any further. Did you know that practically every means of transportation requires some kind of fuel to keep running? Without fuel, most cars, planes, and even big boats simply wouldn't be able to move!



POWER FAILURE!

Sometimes, when there is a problem, electricity can't make its way to the buildings in a neighbourhood. That makes it impossible to watch TV or to use the microwave! Radios go quiet and lamps don't work either.

Have you ever experienced a power failure, either at home or at school? What do you do when you're forced to be without electricity for a few minutes or a few hours?

Play music? Read? Do crafts?

ENERGY IS ALL AROUND US!

Electricity and the means of transportation we use today didn't always exist. Before they were invented, people used the forces of nature to get around, make their work easier, and even to keep warm.

For example, using the wind, **millers were able to produce great quantities of flour**¹. Wind energy has also always been used to move sailboats along. **Wind turbines**²—those big white propellers you see sometimes—transform wind into electricity.

Can you name some other forms of energy?



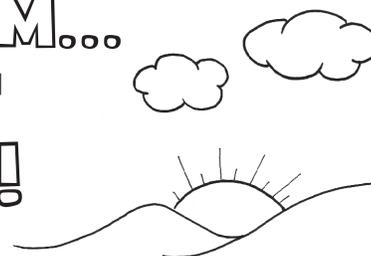
OUR BODIES ARE ALSO FILLED WITH ENERGY!



The energy in our bodies allows us to move around, dance, and jump. Through the energy in our muscles, we can play percussion instruments. The energy allows us to scratch, hit, shake, and bang the instruments.

What gives humans the energy we need? The water we drink, the food we eat, and the sun that keeps us warm.

RHYTHM... A PART OF LIFE!



RHYTHM HAS BEEN A PART OF LIFE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

By observing nature, humans discovered repetitive situations or phenomena all around them. The rising sun that announces the beginning of each new day, and the return of each season allowed people to organize their activities and their time.

But what exactly is rhythm? Rhythm can be described as the repetition of a sound or an event in time.

RHYTHM IS ALSO A PART OF YOUR LIFE!

Have you noticed that certain moments of each day resemble each other? For example, there are situations that occur every day, others that occur every week, and still others that occur every year...

Can you name some things that happen...

...every day
(getting out of bed, eating meals, activities...)?
Every day, I get up, I make my bed, I get dressed... (continue)
Every evening, I brush my teeth, I put on my pyjamas...

... every week
(a sport, an outing, chores...)?
Every week, I go to the pool with my parents, I play soccer with my friends, I visit my grandmother... (continue)

... every year
(birthdays, an activity, an element of nature...)?
Once a year, I celebrate my birthday, I go to the sugar shack... (continue)

Rhythm is within you!
Can you feel your heart beat or hear the steady flow of your breathing?



PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS...

SEVERAL WAYS TO PRODUCE SOUNDS!

A song's rhythm can be marked out in various ways. For example, **hitting** a drum, **scratching** a guiro, or **shaking** small bells can produce a regular rhythm.

As you will see throughout the concert, there is no need to use traditional instruments to explore the world of music... All you need to do is free your imagination!



MATCHING GAME

Start by matching the words suggesting specific actions (left hand column) to the list of instruments (middle column). Finish the game by matching the actions and instruments to everyday objects that might make similar sounds!

SHAKE

1



A



HIT

2



B



SCRATCH

3



C



CREATE YOUR OWN LANGUAGE!

You surely noticed that the musicians at the concert spoke a very special language: Rhythmobilian!

Why not try to develop a rhythm-based language, using your own body? For example, you can clap your hands once to say "yes" and twice to say "no." Use your feet, snap your fingers, and whistle to enhance your rhythmic vocabulary!



SILENT CHALLENGE

When you attend a concert, you must remain silent. The story may make you laugh, or the musicians may ask you to make certain sounds, but the rest of the time, silence is required so that the artists can concentrate and put on a good show for you. How long can you stay completely silent, without laughing? Try it several times, trying to beat the previous record each time.



IT'S YOUR TURN TO PLAY!

DRAW A PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT YOU KNOW ABOUT!

- Can you explain how the instrument works?
- Do you need to shake it, hit it, or scratch it to produce a sound?
- Do you need one or more drumsticks to play it?
- Show and describe your instrument to your classmates!

SNAKES AND LADDERS!

Here is a variation on the game of Snakes and Ladders.

You will need a die and some tokens. The goal of the game is to make your way through the course and get to the finish line. Each time you come to a ladder or a snake, you will have to answer a question: at a ladder, a correct answer allows you to climb, while a wrong answer leaves you where you are; at a snake, a correct answer keeps you safe, while a wrong answer makes you slide back down.

Arrivée	29	28	27	26
21	22	23	24	25
20	19	18	17	16
11	12	13	14	15
10	9	8	7	6
Départ	2	3	4	5

Questions on the board:

- 28: How many beats does a whole note equal?
- 24: Name 2 percussion instruments
- 25: What is this instrument?
- 20: How many seconds are there in a minute?
- 11: What is this instrument?
- 10: How many toms are in a drum kit?
- 8: What am I?
- 5: How many beats are there in a waltz rhythm?

Other elements:

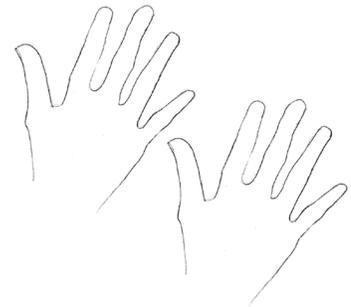
- 29: Bravo! Long live rhythm!
- 15: Keep going! We're counting on you!
- 4: Good luck!



LET'S TALK ABOUT THE CONCERT

A FEW SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

- Did you enjoy attending this concert?
- What was your favourite part?
- When Patatras and Pataquès must temporarily pull out of the race, they prove to be very resourceful in getting the Rhythmobile running again. Have you ever had to use your imagination in an unexpected situation? If yes, can you describe what the problem was, and how you found a solution?
- If you had to take part in a big race around the world, name three objects you would take with you, and explain why you would choose them.
- During the concert, you no doubt noticed that the percussionists made several movements at the same time! Can you? For example, can you clap your hands and tap your foot at the same time?



A FEW SUGGESTIONS:

READING (IN FRENCH)

For the very young

- TIBO, Gilles, *Les musiques du Petit Bonhomme* Éditions Québec Amérique.

For older children

- PROFESSEUR GÉNIUS, *Mon album de la musique*, Éditions Québec Amérique Jeunesse.

For teachers:

De MASSELOT Emmanuel, WOHLING Philippe. *percuti percuta, petites percussions*. Volume 1, Fuzeau, Paris, 2004, 24 cards, 1 study guide, and 1 compact disc.

WEBSITES:

www.guynadon.com
Stomp: www.stomponline.com



SOLUTIONS

Shake - 3 - A / Hit - 1 - B / Scratch - 2 - C