Includes 9 belts (24 folk songs)

© Linda Seamons at Floating Down the River
Directions:

Read about how I run my black belt program in my title one elementary school so that every student gets a black belt. I worked on it for over 4 years developing it and it is an incredibly motivating program where I see miracles every year from students who come from many backgrounds just come to life when they play the recorder.

If you follow the way I prepare my students ahead and run the program, you will have fabulous results!

Please e-mail me if you have any questions and enjoy the program. seamonsfloatingdowntheriver@gmail.com

Both the black belt system and the Mega Recorder pack (available in my store do require you to do prep work. I advise you to get your older students or parents to help. You can also cut the belts while watching TV. It is very rewarding and I think you will find it worth it.
After working on this for 4 years I finally have my full program available. I hope you like the results. See the next 4 pages for a preview of my Recorder Mega Pack.

I am able to get every single child in my low income school to earn a black belt on the recorder (24 songs), many in a very short time. I only run my recorder program from the beginning of 2nd term in 5th grade to about mid May. The 70 extra belts are one reason they are so motivated to work hard. They want to play the wonderful extra belts. It took 4 years to develop this pack, but it could be the only pack you need to keep your recorder players busy for years. Go to my store to buy this. See the next three pages to preview my Recorder Mega Pack.

Clipart and Fonts are by the following:

Find me here:

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Recorder Mega Pack

Preview

Everything you need to help your students achieve a high level of proficiency on the recorder while having a high level of motivation

Includes:

• 70 motivating extra belts (folk songs, musicals, symphonic, pop)
• 70 extra belt picture pages for students to glue onto extra belt charts
• Extra belt chart and master recorder belt chart for picture icons
• 10 black belt & 21 extra belt fingering Charts large & flash card size
• Small extra belt fingering chart
• 3 Recorder fingering games from easy to more challenging
• Black belt level achievement award cards for the 9 belts
• 4 extra belt level posters
• Extra belt recorder chart for keeping track of extra belts
• Utility box labels for 64 extra belt yarn and icons
• A Promethean flip chart of Black belt songs

+24 Pages of Free Items on TPT that are part of what makes my black belt system successful.
3 levels of recorder note reading card games

70 Extra Belt picture pages
70 sheets of picture icons that go with each extra belt. Students glue these onto their black belt charts.

30 8½ x 11 Fingering Charts for the regular and extra belts

Recorder Black Belt achievement cards

Extra Belt fingering chart

Recorder Black Belt fingering songs bundle 2

Recorder Black Belt fingering songs bundle 3

Recorder Black Belt Fingering Charts

Recorder Extra Belt Fingering Charts

Recorder Black Belt chart for when students have earned a black belt. Recorder master chart for those who fill up Black belt chart

Extra Belt recording chart for keeping track of extra belts passed off after the black belt

Recorder Parent letter
FREE on TPT

A promethean flip chart of the black Belt songs.

Recorder Etiquette Poster

Recorder Etiquette
1. No playing when teacher is talking
2. Blow softly — no squawking
3. Cover holes completely
4. Handle recorder carefully
5. Put recorder under chair when asked
6. Practice diligently when in groups

Recorder Parent letter
English and Spanish
Black Belt Utility and office supplies box labels and all labels below are FREE on TPT http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Floating-Down-The-River

Recorder Utility Box Labels for Black Belt FREE on TPT

Recorder Crate Labels for Black Belt or Extra Belt Music & Extra belt yarn and bead crates FREE on TPT. Files too big to include in this pack.

Get the 64 box labels as part of Recorder Mega Pack

Labels for Black Belt or Extra Belt Music & Extra belt yarn and bead crates
Recorder Crate Labels for Black Belt or Extra Belt Music & Extra belt yarn and bead crates FREE on TPT. Files too big to include in this pack.

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Labels for Black Belt or Extra Belt Music & Extra belt yarn and bead crates
The Whys of My Recorder System

My school does not have a band program. The recorder is a great way to have a “band program” allowing for differentiation of students, training some students to be leaders, exposing students to a great variety of good music, motivating students to want to achieve, and teaching students great musical concepts they might not be exposed to so quickly.

I tell the students about the recorder. It is not a toy, but is a beautiful instrument that can be played with feeling, just like a flute to a great level of competence.

Why Start on C and A and not BAG?

C and A are sol mi or do la in the Kodaly system. Our students learn many songs starting on the minor third, so it makes sense to start on those notes. Also, once the kids learn the C, A, and then the D, and get those notes down, adding the B and G is very easy.

Classroom management that allows for differentiation, not total Chaos

This system is so motivating to the kids for many reasons, one being that they can go at their own pace once we finish the orange belt as a group. I have a signup list for kids who want to pass things off at first when we have very few tutors. I and the tutors call them up one at a time so that they can practice on their own in or small groups that are working well together.

This is what the belts look like on a recorder when a student has the black belt
Recorders- How I manage the instruments

I start in 5th grade since I am a Kodaly based district where we do much singing and solfa that is preparing the students for note reading in later grades. You could easily start earlier, such as 3rd grade and go much slower, using this program over 3-4 years.

When I started at my school 4 years ago, I found buckets of recorders in my closet. They have numbers taped onto them, such as C1, C2. I have found that if a student is allowed to take home a school recorder, it is difficult to get them to remember to bring them back to school. I let each student use a school recorder that stays at school. A month or so before we begin recorders, I send home a letter to parents telling them that we will be starting recorders and I encourage students to buy a recorder for home practicing. Some students buy them before we start. Many buy them once they get the recorder “bug”, after they begin feeling successful. I get one piece Angel recorders for $2.50 each and sell them for $5.00, using the extra money for for recorder prizes and supplies. The recorder they buy stays home for practice.

I have a very small school room. I store the recorders on a recorder stand that I made. I was at a workshop and a lady had made one and was kind enough to tell me how she did it. So, I went to Home Depot and got a long white pressboard. I had them cut it into 14 inch boards and got three recorder stands, plus an extra small one, on which I keep my personal recorders plus extra ones for new kids who come into the class midyear.

I marked 36 spots with dots on it and had one of my neighbors, who had a drill press, drill the holes. The dots were about an inch from the edge and 2 1/4 inches apart.

I bought 1/4 inch wooden dowels and marked them for 3 1/2 inch lengths and that same neighbor cut them. I sanded the end that would be sticking up and glued them in the holes with wood glue.

They are fabulous, and it only cost me $12 (more if you have to buy the wood glue). I have my seating chart with each student's recorder # listed in their assigned spot.

During the year, I sometimes move students if their seating spot is not working, but I usually don't move the recorder since they have gotten used to where their recorder spot is. Some students don't put away their recorder properly, so sometimes kids have a hard time finding theirs, but we don't sweat it too much. It seems to work pretty well.

I put all of the recorders in the top rack of the dishwasher at the end of the year to get them ready for the next year. Since each student plays only his recorder, I don’t clean them again until after we are done with them. I only had two large classes of 5th graders this year.
How to use the belts

There are 9 belts that students earn (24 songs). I printed 30 sets on card stock, laminated the pages, and put each 9 belt set together with a silver book ring, making it easy for students to use and making it durable to last a long time. Students can even write note names on them with a visa vis marker while they are learning to play the belts, although I prefer they not write notes on.

Preparation for Starting the Recorder

Leading up to playing the recorder in 5th grade, we have learned these songs, some starting in kindergarten and first grade, through singing, playing games for some, using the solfa system, learning and practicing rhythm, and learning to read notes. Preparation over time is critical to the success of the belts.

Beginning the Belts

I work with the class as a group to learn the first three belts: White, yellow, and orange. We practice together and I listen to a few students in a row at a time, having my person of the day hand out the silver rings that go on their recorders plus the 8 inch pieces of yarn for the first song of each belt and the beads that they earn for the 2nd and/or third song for each belt. Getting them through the first three belts gives them confidence that they can play the recorder.

Even after the kids get through the first three belts, we still work together as a group on the belts for a while at the beginning of each class. Then we split up and students practice on their own or in small groups and pass belts off with me. As some students pass off the black belt, some in 3 weeks or less, they start tutoring and passing off belts for other students. The tutors are a key to success.
Earning the Black Belt and Getting the Chart

A big part of why every student in the 5th grade gets their black belt (24 songs) and earns many extra belts is because I have made many interesting extra belts, plus I take their picture and insert it into a digital black belt chart file that goes out on a hallway bulletin board. They look forward to earning the extra belts. Kids LOVE the recognition they get for getting their chart up on the board. I take a picture on my smart phone, send it to my e-mail and insert it into a black belt chart template. It takes only a few minutes to print out each student’s chart-- well worth the effort.

The Extra Belts

A big reason my kids are so anxious to get their black belt is because they love getting the black belt chart out on the bulletin board in the hallway and earning the little pictures that go with each new song, plus they love playing songs that they have known for years and learning new songs, many which they have heard before.

By necessity, over the past 3 years, I have developed 70 extra belts because students keep passing them off and wanting more. I have a student who passed off every single belt by the end of February this year, even though I didn’t start recorder until November. How can I say no to a student who is that excited? It allows for differentiation and is what makes the kids work so hard at the regular belts. Many of the extra belts are 3 pieces of yarn braided. In my extra belt recording chart, I have listed the yarn and/or beads that go with each belt. Most of the kids help each other with the braiding until he or she learns how. Some students just leave their yarn unbraided.
My hall bulletin board gets taken over by black belt charts

Tutors

Another big part of our success is having students who are “fast finishers” become tutors. After earning their black belt, they pass off the rainbow belt, which includes one song from each belt leading up to becoming a black belt in recorder. Once they pass that off, they become a tutor and can help tutor or pass off other students. They enjoy that privilege and it makes everything easier for me. This year I have put a special emphasis on them being sure a student is reading the notes well before they pass off things, because if someone is helping them too much, they won’t be able to play the extra belts when it comes time. For those who tutor, I only have them tutor for half of the class, so they can pass off some extra belts themselves.

Incentives for Learning

After earning the full orange belt, the students get to choose a small prize from my prizes. I get some bouncy balls, porcupine characters, and some other small toys as regular belt prizes from . After the orange belt, the students earn a prize for totally finishing each additional belt leading up to the black belt.

After the student finishes the black belt and starts passing off extra songs, he or she gets a small piece of candy for each belt passed off.

Master Recorder

Once a student has passed off enough belts to fill up the black belt chart, he or she gets a large hershey bar, a fun recorder book (I ordered Star Wars, Harry Potter, or Wizard of Oz from Amazon.com and a new recorder master chart. I had about 15 students fill up regular black belt charts this year. I may have to reduce how much I give since or I won’t be able to afford it.
More Organization

Organization is also a key to the success of the program. I began putting my beads and yarn for the black belt program in a plastic box I got in the craft section of Walmart. It worked well, but I have now gone to a utility box that sits on my desk that has drawers for yarn and drawers for beads, as well as for my recorder rings and other things I use in my classes.

I have all of my extra belt music stored in file crates by my sink. The belts all have the belt name on them making them very easy for the students to file.

My extra belt icons that go on the black belt chart and yarn for the recorders used to be in crates, but I found it hard to dig in the folders to get the items, so I went to a big utility box for them. I now have too many belts even for that, so I now have another crate with the ones that are not as popular, usually because they are harder belts and/or are less known songs.

Extra Belt Chart

With so many extra belts, I have made a list of them that I give to each student when he or she passes off the black belt. It lists the belts, the difficulty, what challenges are in the belt, the yarn that goes with each, and has a place to check off the belt when passed off. I keep it on my counter in a folder for each class, but I plan to get a file labeled A to Z to have students’ charts by name to make it easier to find them.
All yarn and icons for the extra box are in the drawers. I have more belts than this 64 drawer box. Recently, I took out some of the lesser played belts to make room. The belts that are played less are ones, such as the German Belt, “Auf Dem Wasser Zu Singen” that we sang in choir last year. The rhythm is challenging and the three round belts, which have to be played really well in order to play them with another student. The really top kids will do the German belt, but we don’t need the yarn on a regular basis, so it will be an extra container. I also took out my three round belts. All kids want to do the round belts when they see the pictures and feel that they know the songs, such as “Freedom Train” and “Rose Rose”. The problem for those new black belt students is that a round with another person requires you to play steady and in time, which is a more advanced skill. I encourage the new black belt students to choose the easy belts shown on their lists. NEW this year is my 4 song level posters to show the kids the easiest songs to play first. I require them to play at least 10 easy songs before they can play the harder ones. That is very motivating to them.

**Making the Yarn for the Extra Belts and the Icon Squares**

My students use a lot of little yarn pieces passing of the belts. I just cut out an 8 inch long and 6-8 inch wide piece of cardboard. I wrap the yarn around the cardboard many times and then cut the top edge and the bottom edge to make a ton of yarn pieces. I print out the picture icons we use to glue onto the squares of the extra belt charts in a big sheet. I have 6th graders who come in before school to cut the icons out. It makes my work much easier. You can cut out the 8 inch strips while watching TV.
White Belt

Cherry Pie

My my, me oh my, how I love that cherry pie.

Old Mother Witch

Old mother witch Fell in a ditch.

Picked up a penny and thought she was rich.

For the Fast Finisher

Kardos Canon
Yellow Belt

Bounce High Bounce Low

Bounce high bounce low

Bounce the ball to Provo

Rattlesnake

R A T T L E

SNAKE spells rattlesnake

See Saw Margorie Daw

See saw marjorie Daw

Jack has got a new master

He shall earn but a penny a day be

cause he can't work any faster
Green Belt

Rain come wet me. Sun come dry me.

Keep a way, ev'ry one. Don't come nigh me.

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb.

Mary had a little lamb whose fleece was white as snow.

I See the Moon

I see the moon, and the moon sees me!

Shine on the sailors and shine on me!
Blue Belt

Chinese Song (On the Yangtze)

\[ \text{Ya hoo ya hoo hey} \]
\[ \text{ya hoo ya hoo hey} \]
\[ \text{Hi yi yi, Hi yi yi,} \]
\[ \text{Ya hoo ya hoo hey.} \]

Phoebe in her Petticoat

\[ \text{Phoebe in her petti coat,} \]
\[ \text{Phoebe in her gown.} \]
\[ \text{Phoebe in her petti coat,} \]
\[ \text{going down to town.} \]
Corn Song

Planting yellow corn, maize upon the field.

Sun above, earth below, Nourish ripened grain.

From the ground, stalks appear stong from summer rain.

Corn, corn source of life. Harvest time is here.
Purple Belt

Shake Them Simmons Down

Shake that tree, do oh do oh. Shake that tree, do oh do oh.

Shake that tree, do oh do oh. Shake them Simmons down.

Old MacDonald

Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o and

on his farm he had a cow, e-i-e-i-o. With a

moo moo here and a moo moo there. Here a moo, there a moo, ev'ry where a moo moo.

Old MacDonald had a farm, e-i-e-i-o.

Old Brass Wagon

circle to the left old brass wagon. Circle to the left Old Brass wagon.

Circle to the left old brass wagon. You're the one my darling!
Red Belt

Lavendar Blue

Lavendar blue, dil-ly dil-ly,
la-ven-dar green.

When I am king, dil-ly dil-ly,
you shall be queen.

Button You Must Wander


Bright eyes will find you. Sharp eyes will find you. But-ton you must wan-der ev-ry where.
Brown Belt

Land of the Silver Birch

Land of the silver birch, Home of the beaver.

Land where the mighty moose wanders at will.

Blue lake and rocky shore, I will return once more.


My Good Old Man

Where are you going my good old man?

Where are you going my sugar, my lamb?

Best old man in the world.
Build the road of peace before us. Build it wide and deep and long.

Speed the slow and check the eager. Help the weak and curb the strong.

None shall push aside another. None shall let another fall.

March beside me sister brother, all from one, and one for all.

Build peace and build it wide and deep and long, to speed, check and help the weak and curb the strong.

March, Sister. One for all and all for one.
Black Belt Fingering Chart

In the order that they are played in the belts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>G</th>
<th>C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>F</td>
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