Froggy Beats

An Activity for identifying the number of beats each note or rest gets and to create music math equations.

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Notes to the teacher:

This activity is designed to help students learn how many beats each note and rest gets. They will be creating math equations using music notes. There are three different ways to do the activity. See the challenge pages to see how each challenge works. I have included pictures to help the students understand what they need and how to play.

We do this activity as a class for a couple of lessons. I will pick a student to roll the dice and several other students to come up and put a frog or a fly on the lily pad. Once they understand how to play, I will add it to my centers.

I like to expose my students to all the notes that they see in their music. I start doing this in first grade. My hope is by fifth grade they will have mastered all the notes. The frogs have all the notes that I use. I have included a page of blank frogs and a page of blank flies. This will allow you to add what you want to use.

I use this activity with 1st-5th grade. My first graders can do the first challenge, but the second and third challenge are a little too much for some of them. I let them decide if they want to try the second and third challenge. Those who can’t do them will just do the first challenge.

You will need to take some time to make the game. I have included all the game pieces for you to print off, but there are some things you will need to purchase. I bought all my materials at the Dollar Tree store. The list of things are on the next page.
What You Need to Make this activity:
(Makes 4 sets)

1. 8 regular dice= each student gets 2 regular dice.
2. 80 clothes pins
3. Cardstock to print activity pieces onto. I recommend laminating them after you print them out.
4. Glue to put the frogs and flies onto the clothespins.
5. 4 sandwich sized bags to put the frogs and flies into
6. 1 large bag or a small box to store all the materials in.
7. 4 dry erase markers
8. 4 1" wooden cubes to write the numbers onto. I got mine from the local teacher store.

Each student gets one of each frog (14 total), one of each fly (6 total), and one lily pad. I have my students make twelve equations. This is the choices they have:
1 challenge= 12 equations
2 challenges= 6 equations for each challenge
3 challenges= 4 equations for each challenge

I have also included a student record sheet. Students will write their equation on the sheet. I have put two record sheets on one page. Just print them off and cut in half.

To help keep the sets from getting mixed up I put a color dot on all the clothespins. Each set is a different color. I use a permanent marker to put the dot on. I also put the color dot on the bags.

Enjoy!
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Direction on How to Play

**Materials you will need:**

1. 1 bag of Frogs and Flies
2. 2 regular dice
3. 1 wooden dice
4. 1 lily pad
5. 1 record sheet to write your equations on. In the big bag.
6. 1 dry erase marker
7. 1 pencil

**Materials you will share with others:**

1. Beat chart
2. 3 challenge cards
3. 1 choice card

All the above materials are in the big bag.

You will be creating 12 music equations using the dice and the frogs & Flies clips. Read through the “Here are your Choices” card to decide which challenges you will do. When you have decided you can start creating your music equations. Don’t forget to write your equations down on the record sheet. Please use the pencil to write your equations. Only use the Dry Erase marker to write the number on the lily pad.
Here are your choices:

(You only need to choose one of the following)

If you are only doing one challenge, make 12 equations.

If you are doing two challenges, make 6 equations for one challenge and 6 equations for the other challenge.

If you are doing all 3 challenges, make 4 equations for each challenge.

Read through each challenge to decide what you’re going to do. Once you make a choice, you need to stick with it. Try to challenge yourself.
Challenge 1

Materials Needed:

1. two dice
2. Frogs only
3. 1 lily pads

First Step: roll the dice

Second step: add the two dice up and write the answer on the lily pad with the dry erase marker.

Third step: figure out which frogs to clip onto the lily pad. Make sure you read the note on the frog’s tummy. You need to figure out how many beats the note gets. Use the beat chart if you need help remembering how many beats the note gets. The beat chart is in the large bag. You will need to share the beat chart with everyone in your group.

Below is a sample of what to do. I rolled a 1 and a 5. 1 + 5 = 6. Then I wrote the answer on the lily pad. You can use any notes you want, but they have to equal the answer when you add them up. I used a quarter note (1 beat), two eighth notes (1 beat), and a whole note (4 beats). My equation would look like this = 1 + 1 + 4 = 6.
Challenge 2

Materials Needed:

1. Frogs & Flies
2. 1 lily pads
3. One regular dice and one wooden dice with numbers written on it.

First Step: roll the dice

Second step: add the two dice up and write the answer on the lily pad with the dry erase marker.

Third step: You can only use one fly and there must be at least one fly on your lily pad. Use as many frogs as you need. Try to use notes that you haven’t used before. Use the beat chart if you need help.

Below is a sample of what to do. I rolled a 6 and a 12. $6 + 12 = 18$. Then I wrote the answer on the lily pad. I used a fly with 9 on it, then I used a frog with a dotted half note (3 beats), eighth and two sixteenth (1 beat), whole note (4 beats), and an eighth note triplet (1 beat). My equation would look like this: $9 + 3 + 1 + 4 + 1 = 18$
Challenge 3

Materials Needed:

1. Frogs & Flies
2. 1 lily pad
3. Two regular dice and one wooden dice with numbers written on it.

First Step: roll the dice

Second step: add the three dice up and write the answer on the lily pad with the dry erase marker.

Third step: You can only use one fly and there must be at least one fly on your lily pad. Use as many frogs as you need. Try to use notes that you haven’t used before. Use the beat chart if you need help.

Below is a sample of what to do. I rolled a 4 and a 2 and a 7. 4 + 2 + 7 = 13. Then I wrote the answer on the lily pad. I used a fly with 8 on it, then I used a frog with 4 sixteenth notes (1 beat), a half rest (2 beats), a quarter note (1 beat), and two eighth notes (1 beat). My equation would look like this: 8 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 1 = 13.
Froggy Beats Record Sheet

Write the answer and then draw the notes or numbers you used to get to the answer.

Example: 6 = o + ♩ + ♪

1. ______________________  7. ______________________
2. ______________________  8. ______________________
3. ______________________  9. ______________________
4. ______________________ 10. ______________________
5. ______________________ 11. ______________________
6. ______________________ 12. ______________________