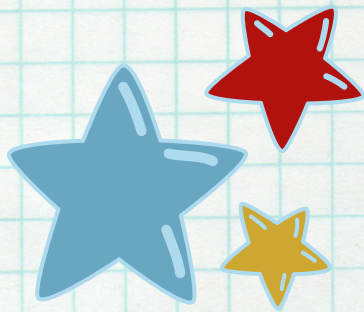


COYOTE AND THE COUNTING GAME



STUDY GUIDE



*book & lyrics by diana grisanti
music by emiliano messiez
directed by rebecca kritzer*

Gaby's having a rough year. She's failing 3rd grade math, her genius brother is off at college, and her dad won't buy her the drum set of her dreams so she can be a real rock star. But when a crafty Coyote comes into her life, she discovers that she might be able to trick her way out of her troubles. Coyote has no trouble playing fast and loose with the truth, but Gaby isn't so sure. Will Gaby trick her dad into a new drum set? Will the Coyote's cunning methods overrule what Gaby knows in her heart is the wrong thing to do?

And through it all, will we learn the true connection of math and music through the beat of a tamborcito de madera? Featuring fractions, family, rhythm, and lots of audience participation, Coyote & The Counting Game reminds us all of the power of truth and honesty, and that sometimes the beat and the music you need is already right in front of you.

TRICKSTER MYTHS

Many different cultures have stories about the Coyote!



Shoshone & Karuk Tribes



Coyote Brings Fire to the People

A long time ago, humans came into being and they loved the world around them, even the hard, cold winter season. Coyote loved the humans and felt sorry for their suffering in the winter, so he climbed the mountain where the Fire Beings lived and, with the help of his friends Squirrel, Chipmunk, Frog, and Wood, stole fire and brought it back to the humans. He showed them how to control and recreate the fire so they would never be cold again.

The Crow Nation

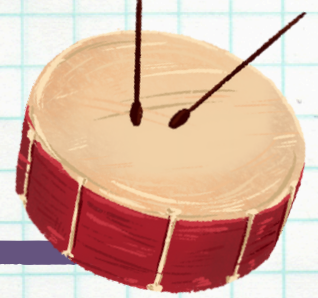
Coyote as Creator

Many centuries ago, all the world was water and Old Man Coyote was lonely. With the help of two ducks, he created land from mud and sticks, and then carved rivers and lakes to help the plants grow in the land. From his thoughts, he created a brother - Coyote - who wanted to make more interesting things. From their thoughts together, they created forests, mountains, valleys, animals and humans.





EXERCISES



1

TWO TRUTHS & A LIE

In the play, Gaby and the Coyote decide to lie to Gaby's dad. Make no mistake - lying is wrong, and it can be hard to lie - but here's a safe place to try it out! One student stands in front of the class, and lists three facts (two truths, one lie) about themselves.

Example: "I like pizza, I'm 10 years old, and my dad is Keanu Reeves."

The class must guess what the lie is - try to come up with things that are very possible and hard to guess! Often, this will reveal facts about the students that their peers may not immediately recognize as truth, but are in fact very cool and individual realities from their lived experiences.

3

PIZZA FRACTIONS

Draw a large pizza on your white or chalk board, and divide it into four or eight equal pieces.

Alternatively, cut a pizza out of construction paper and get creative with your toppings!

Label the slices with the appropriate fractions, and then watch what happens when you take slices out!

Example: I have four slices, and I take one out. What fraction of the whole pizza is that?

LINK:

<https://www.iknowit.com/blog/fraction-pizza-party.html>



2

DUALITY

The Coyote is often described as being two things at once! Good and evil, right and wrong, cunning and clumsy. Can you do two things at the same time with your body and voice?

- Walk and chew gum
- Rub tummy and pat head

Now, try to embody some opposites at the same time! An energetic sloth, a ballet-dancing elephant, a heavy feather. Happy and sad. Slow and fast.

4

DRUMMING

Since everyone has rhythm, try your hand at being a rock star drummer just like Gaby! Listen to the provided guide audio with your students and remember, everything worth doing takes practice!



Try these words along with the guide audio!
Dancing hands, dance!