Chrome Music Lab: Making Music with Arpeggios

Ages: 7 - 18   Projected time: 15 - 25min

Supplies needed: Computer with internet access.

Project Intro: Students will learn about chords progressions by making music with the Chrome Lab online application called Arpeggios.

Vocabulary:

Chord: In music, it's a group of three or more notes sounded together.

Arpeggio: The notes of a chord played one after another.

Keys: In music theory, the key of a piece is the group of pitches that forms the basis of a music composition in classical, Western art, and Western pop music.
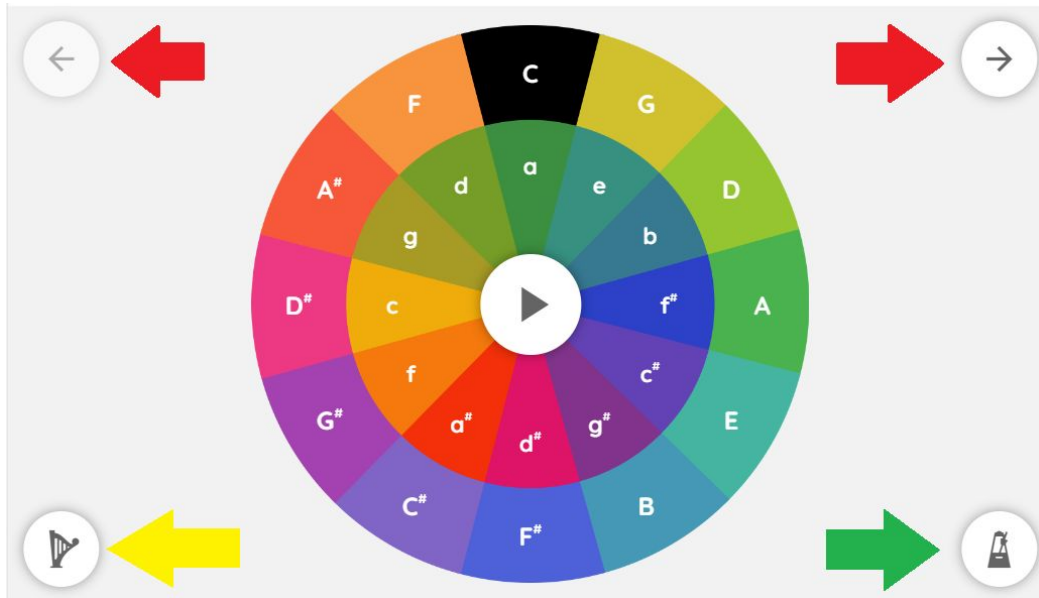
Circle of Fifths: A graphical representation of the relationship among the 12 tones of the chromatic scale, their corresponding key signatures, and the associated major and minor keys.

Major chord: a major chord is a chord that has a root, major third, and perfect fifth. When a chord has these three notes alone, it is called a major triad. Alone, a major chord can sound happy.

Minor chord: a minor chord is a chord having a root, a minor third, and a perfect fifth. When a chord has these three notes alone, it is called a minor triad. Alone, a minor chord can sound sad.

PART 1: The Arpeggios Window

Visit this website: *Chrome Music Lab: Arpeggios*

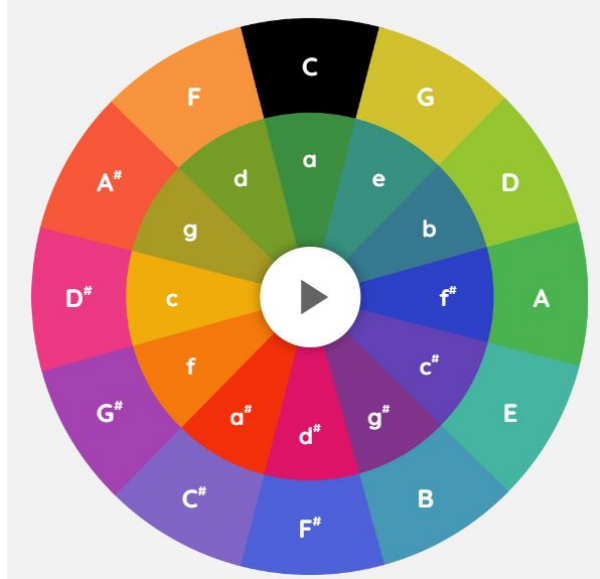**Red Arrows: Cycles through different arpeggios patterns.**
Yellow Arrow: Cycles through different sounds used for the arpeggios.
Green Arrow: Brings up the tempo window that lets you decide the tempo/speed.

Above the main window is your arpeggio window. This window shows you which notes, from the chosen chord, are being played by the arpeggio.

The notes are color coded using twelve different colors for twelve different notes.

The outer circle are all happy major chords.

The inner circle are all sad minor chords.

In the center you have the PLAY and PAUSE button.

PART 2: Making Music

1. Lets begin with the most common chord progression in all music, so press play while making sure C major (major chords are in the outer ring) is chosen.
2. Watch the arpeggio and right before it restarts choose F Major.
3. Then, right before that arpeggio ends click on G Major.
4. Let the G major arpeggio loop at least twice.
5. Then, right before it restarts click on C major.
6. Press stop.
7. What you just heard is the most common chord progression in all western music of any genre.

The chord progression here was: C major, F major, G major, then C major. In this case, this four-chord chord progression that ends in C is in the key of C major

Part 3: Making More Music With Famous Chord Progressions

1. Now without pressing play, tap(in the circle) this well known chord progression heard in guitar-based music:

G major > **D major** > **E minor** (inner ring) > **C Major** > **G major**