

LESSON PLAN: Playing A7 in Muddy Waters

Objective:

Students will be able to play the A7 chord in one of the most famous blues based songs in the history of rock and roll.

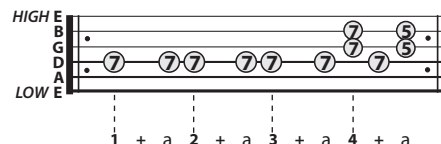
Resources:

Recording of Mannish Boy by Muddy Waters, lyrics, Handout of the A7 chord

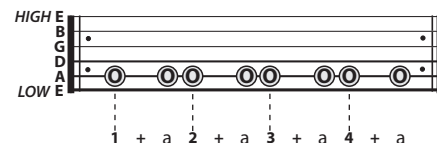
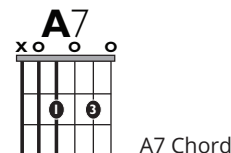
Procedures:

- 1 Listen to Mannish Boy by Muddy Waters as a class. Point out the famous blues lick occurring over and over throughout the song as one of the most famous guitar riffs ever used. A YouTube lesson of this riff can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHfDIkCYl0>
- 2 Describe the shuffle feel rhythm heard in the song as being a “heartbeat”. Imitate this sound tapping on a surface, then do it while counting.

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
1 + a 2 + a 3 + a 4 + a

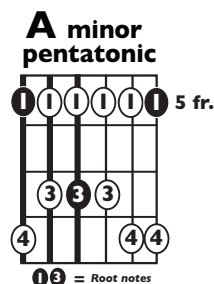


- 3 Demonstrate playing an A7 chord while playing the strum pattern as you count it out loud
- 4 Direct students in playing the A7 chord on their guitars using the handout.
- 5 Direct other students in playing the bass line for this song, staying on the open A string the entire time
- 6 Perform one of the songs as a group, having students improvise bass lines on the A string



Extension:

- 1 Re-write lyrics to this song based on ideas from the students or a topic the class or school is currently working with
- 2 Take a guitar solo using the A minor pentatonic.



National Core Arts Standards (Music):

Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. Example: Harmonizing Instruments MU:Pr5.1.H.IIa (HS Accomplished) Perform with expression and technical accuracy, in individual and small group performances, a varied repertoire of music that includes melodies, repertoire pieces, improvisations, and chordal accompaniments in a variety of styles, demonstrating sensitivity to the audience and an understanding of the context (social, cultural, and historical). Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work. Example: General Music MU:Re7.1.4 a. Demonstrate and explain how selected music connects to and is influenced by specific interests, experiences, purposes, or contexts. Common Core Correlation: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

