

Three Blind Mice (Round)

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time. It consists of four parts, each starting with a measure number (1, 2, 3, 4) above the staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. Part 1 starts with 'Three blind mice, Three blind mice, See how they run!'. Part 2 continues with 'See how they run! They all ran af-ter the farm-er's wife, She cut off their tails with a'. Part 3 continues with 'carv-ing knife, Did you ev-er see such a sight in your life as three blind mice?'. Part 4 ends with 'mice?'.

Lyrics: Three blind mice,
 Three blind mice.
 See how they run!
 See how they run!
 They all ran after the farmer's wife.
 She cut off their tails with a carving knife.
 Did you ever see such a sight in your life
 As three blind mice?

SINGING

Sing the song using the following body movements:

Three Blind Mice - use sol-fa hand signals for mi, re, do
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 See how they run - run fingers up arm
 See how they run - run fingers up arm

They all ran after the farmer's wife, she cut off their tails with a carving knife, did you ever see such a sight in your life! (run around a pre-assigned area with hands waving in the air) Be back in seat for last phrase of "Three Blind Mice" and again use the hand signals for mi, re, do.

Make sure the song is going on as well as the actions.

The rule is that singing must always accompany the game.

Sing the song again and have students play in pairs, sitting facing each other for the hand-signal mi, re, do phrase. At the end, they must end up facing partner, sitting down singing and using the hand signs.

Sing the song as a round. Divide students into three groups. Try different starting places. Which do you like best? Why?

PLAYING

Use pitched instrument for mi, re, do as accompaniment for the singing of the song. Play the mi, re, do pattern throughout the song as an ostinato. Choose percussion classroom instruments to highlight other parts of the song.

CREATING

Students sit in a circle. Act out the story as children sing. Three blind mice in the middle with plastic sack tails tucked in a back pocket or belt loop. Farmer's wife (someone who has been secretly chosen) jumps up as the song signals and goes after the tails of the three blind mice. Game is over as the last Three Blind Mice phrase is sung. How many tails did the wife get?

Be sure to play this game in a safe area, such as on a carpeted floor, or a grassy area outside.

After playing and singing in this way many times, have students discuss ways to add instruments and ostinati that would enhance the drama of the story. Put these created sounds together with the acting out of the story.

LISTENING

.Sing the song. Listen for the rising melody pattern. Have students make a melody graph describing the three distinct patterns in this song:

Three Blind Mice - first pattern

See how they run - second pattern

They all ran after the farmer's wife

She cut off their tails with a carving knife

Did you ever see such a sight in your life as - third pattern

Three blind mice - back to first pattern

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

Have students create picture books with mice shapes from construction paper and yam tails. Students might brainstorm ways to make the tale less violent. "She chased them around and around for fun. Soon they were tired and said they were done."