



Nathan Cahill Music

www.nathancahill.com.au

0417 002 949 info@nathancahill.com.au

Why "GREEN CROCS EAT ANTS"?

Well, let's start with the obvious - the string names. yes, assuming that you are in a "GCEA" country (i.e. not "ADF#B"), you could give the letter names any mnemonic you like, and that's potentially a great 'Day 1' classroom activity for memorizing string names. However, my success with 'Green Crocs...' comes from those specific, (mostly!) one-syllable words - chosen carefully after (literally!) months of trial and error...

TRY THIS...

Sing and play (both together - very important!) Green Crocs Eat Ants in order from the 4th (top) string to the 1st (bottom) string. Now, this promotes in-tune singing, and believe or not, I have Yr 2 students who can 'perfect pitch' those 4 notes at random, (e.g. "Oi - sing me a G!") just from singing and playing them at the start of every ukulele lesson since Yr 1. I actively encourage them to look at the strings as they play (for now...), especially when I sing and play a different order, such as:

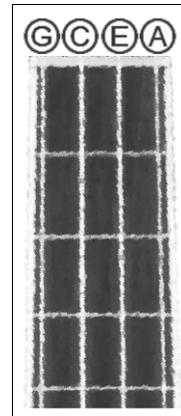
Green Ants Eat Crocs OR

Ants Eat Green Crocs OR

Crocs Eat Green Ants OR

Eat Green Ants, Crocs OR

Green Ants Eat Green Crocs OR ...



Songs such as "Music Time", "Hungry, Hungry" and, of course, the "GCEA Song Pack" use only these notes, as do many of the beginner songs from early primary music classes!

I'm sure that there must be another set of four "GCEA" words that will also fit nicely in just about any order - but this is the simplest, most visual combination I could come up with... If you want to try, I'd love to hear your version!

MOVING ON...

Next come the single finger notes, and chords to match...

High C was the obvious starting point - using only open strings and 3rd fret C on the A string (I Can play C!). And now, purely by 'accident' (a "wow, kids, check this out!" kind of accident...), students as young as grade 1 are able to improvise...

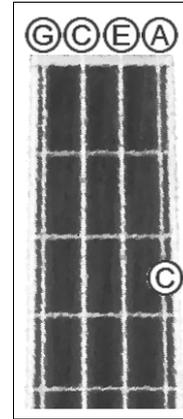
Green Ants Can Eat Crocs OR

Ants Can Eat Green Crocs OR

Crocs Can Eat Green Ants OR

Can Green Ants Eat Crocs? OR

Green Ants Can Eat Green Crocs OR ...



Just one finger resulted in songs such as "Crocs are Coming", "Clocks", "I Love My Ukulele" "Green Crocs Eat Ants" and "Rattlesnake" melodies - all very approachable tunes at varying grade levels, depending on when ukulele is introduced into the music curriculum...

OH, IT'S THAT EASY? WHAT NEXT?

Next comes the "Deadly D", the the "Fat F", then the "Buggy B"... here's an overview of the mnemonics: (also available as a poster in the Music Shop...)

GREEN CROCS EAT ANTS
TREBLE STAFF NOTE NAMES

FOOTY	EAT
DOING	CAN
BUGS	ANTS
GREEN	FAT
EAT	DEADLY
CROCS	

Crocs C, Deadly D, Eating E, Fat F, Green G, Ants A, Buggy B, Can C

And a story to help out - a great tool for junior classes (or at any level) to help memorise the staff notes of the C major scale: "The 3 Hungry Dots"

Also check out my printable resoures to assist your ukulele/music 'theory' (that dirty word!) lessons - from posters to cards and chord charts, they give great visual and practical assistance!

Check out the latest version of the 'GCEA Scope and Sequence' to see my progression of notes, chords, skills and songs for Primary School students... and keep an eye out for new songs and resources!

