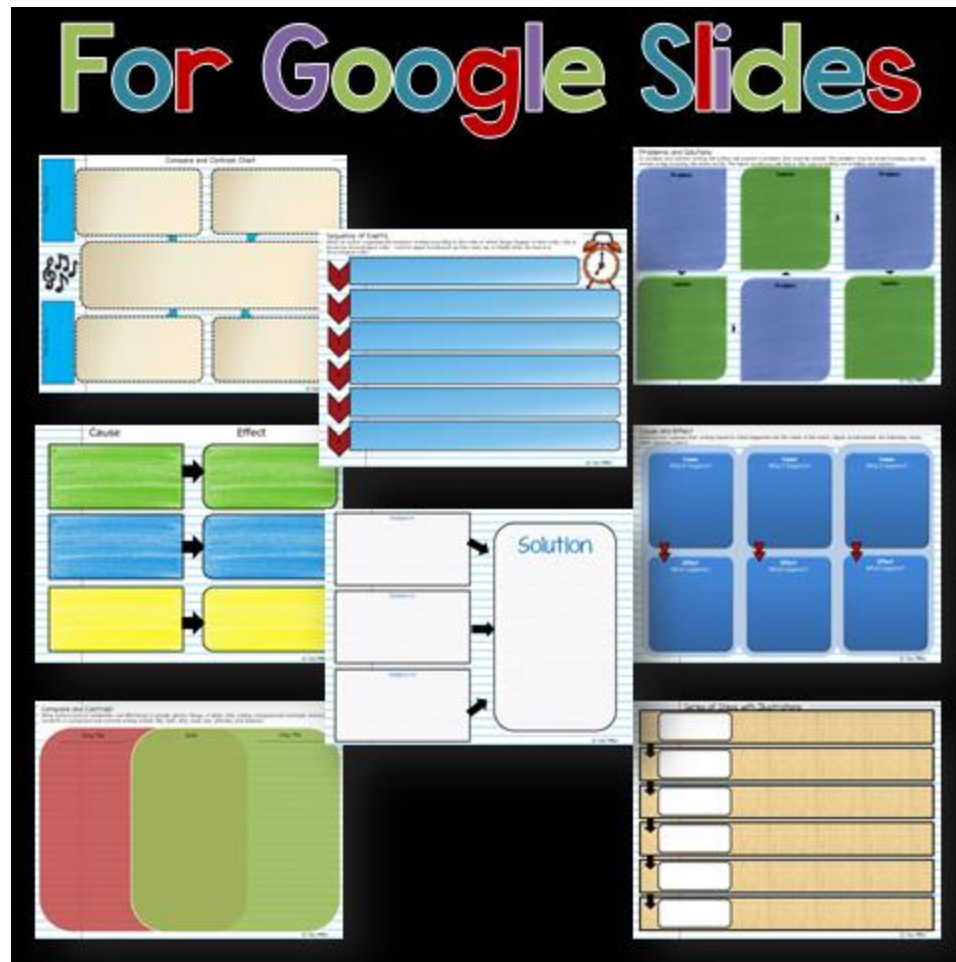


Teaching Sequencing with Songs



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Historical Events

"Ballad of the Alamo" by Marty Robbins tells the story of around 180 Texans, including famous figures such as Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, who held off a Mexican army of thousands for thirteen days in 1836.

Shortly after the freighter Edmund Fitzgerald sank in Lake Superior on November 10, 1975, Gordon Lightfoot, a Canadian singer-songwriter, wrote this song to commemorate the sinking which took all 29 crew members with it. The song mourns the loss of the crew and the tragedy of the ship's sinking.

Casey Jones was an American railroader who worked for the Illinois Central Railroad. "The Ballad of Casey Jones" tells the story of how he was killed on April 30, 1900, when his train collided with a stalled freight train. The song was written in 1909, so it is now in the public domain.

Here are a few more history songs you might try:

"The Ballad of Davy Crockett" by Tennessee Ernie Ford

"The Battle of New Orleans" by Johnny Horton

"Midnight Ride" by Paul Revere and the Raiders

"The Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key (the story of the War of 1812)

"Abraham, Martin, and John" by Dick Holler (This song connects the murders of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and John F. Kennedy.)

Using Songs to Teach Sequencing



Ballad of the Alamo

The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald



The Ballad of Casey Jones

Gay Miller @ Book Units Teacher

Biographies in Song

"Coat of Many Colors" sung by Dolly Parton tells the story of her childhood growing up in poverty in rural Tennessee. The children in school teased Dolly about her coat made from scraps of colorful fabric, but Dolly was proud of her coat because her mother made it with love and care.

Here are a few more you might try:

"Coal Miner's Daughter" by Loretta Lynn

"Leader of the Band" by Dan Fogelberg

Songs that Tell a Story

"Love Story" is a song by Taylor Swift that tells the story of a young couple who fall in love despite their families' objections.

"All-American Girl" is a song by Carrie Underwood that tells the story of a father who dreams of having a baby boy. The song describes the couple's excitement and anticipation as they prepare for the arrival of their child. When a daughter is born, the father's dreams change, and he grows to love his little girl.

"Billy Don't Be a Hero" is a song by Bo Donaldson and The Heywoods that tells the story of a young man named Billy who decides to enlist in the army during the Civil War.



Songs that Tell Stories

"Jesus Take the Wheel" by Carrie Underwood (2005): A woman driving home on a snowy Christmas Eve loses control of her car and turns to prayer for help.

"Just a Dream" by Carrie Underwood (2007): A young woman dreams about her soldier husband who has died in combat and wakes up to the heartbreaking reality of his death.

"Mary's Song (Oh My My My)" by Taylor Swift: The song tells the story of a young girl named Mary who falls in love with a boy named Peter and dreams about their future together.

"Cat's in the Hat" by Harry Chapin (1974): The song tells the story of a father who is too busy to spend time with his son, and when the son grows up, he becomes too busy for his father.

"Three Wooden Crosses" by Randy Travis (2002): The song tells the story of four passengers on a bus, including a farmer, a teacher, a preacher, and a prostitute. The story ends with a tragic accident, but the message is about the importance of faith.

"Last Kiss" by J. Frank Wilson and the Cavaliers (1964): The song tells the story of a car accident where the narrator's girlfriend dies in his arms.

"Boulevard of Broken Dreams" by Green Day (2004): The song follows the story of a lonely person walking down an empty city street at night, feeling lost and disconnected from the world.

"In the Ghetto" by Elvis Presley (1969) tells the story of a young boy who grows up in poverty and crime in the inner city, ultimately meeting a tragic end.

"The Coward of the County" by Kenny Rogers (1979) tells the story of a man named Tommy, who is known as the town coward until he stands up to a group of bullies and avenges the honor of his girlfriend.

"Wildfire" by Michael Martin Murphey (1975) tells the story of a horse named Wildfire and a young woman who rides her, but ultimately dies in a blizzard.

"Phantom 309" by Red Sovine (1967) is a story about a truck driver who gives a hitchhiker a ride and tells him the story of a ghostly truck driver who saved his life.

Songs that Tell Stories

"Operator" by Jim Croce (1972) tells the story of a man who tries to reach his ex-girlfriend through a telephone operator, but she has already moved on.

"Fun, Fun, Fun" by the Beach Boys (1964) is an upbeat song about a girl who is grounded by her father but still manages to have fun in her car.

"Ol' Red" by Blake Shelton (2001) tells the story of a prisoner who befriends a dog named Red and ultimately uses him to escape prison.

"Unanswered Prayers" by Garth Brooks (1990) tells the story of a man who sees his old flame at a high school football game and realizes that the life he has with his wife is the one he truly wanted.

"Baby Girl" by Sugarland (2004) is a song about a woman who reflects on her life and how her father's advice has helped her become the person she is today.

"The Leader of the Pack" by The Shangri-Las (1965) is a tragic story about a girl who falls in love with a biker, but he dies in a motorcycle accident.

"The Ode to Billie Joe" by Bobbie Gentry (1967) tells the story of a family who learns that Billie Joe McAllister has jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge, but never reveals the reason why.

"He Stopped Loving Her Today" by George Jones (1980) is a song about a man who loved a woman until the day he died, and even beyond.

"Honey" by Bobby Goldsboro is a sad song about a man who mourns the death of his wife, Honey.

"A Day in the Life" by The Beatles (1967) tells the story of a day in the life of a person in the city, with various strange and surreal events happening.

"Rocky Mountain High" by John Denver (1975) is a song about the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and the sense of freedom and joy that can be found in nature.

Songs that Tell Stories

These five songs by Gary Puckett and the Union Gap loosely tell a story, but the content is more appropriate for older students.

“Young Girl“

“Lady Willpower“

“This Girl is a Woman Now”

“Woman Woman“

“Over You“

Sequence of Events

When an author organizes the events in writing according to the order in which things happen or time order, this is known as chronological order. Look for signal words such as *first*, *next*, *as*, or *finally* when the text is in chronological order.



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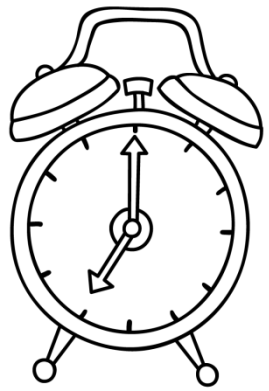
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Sequence of Events

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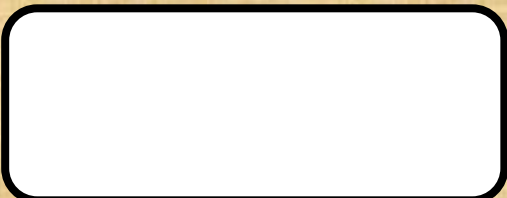
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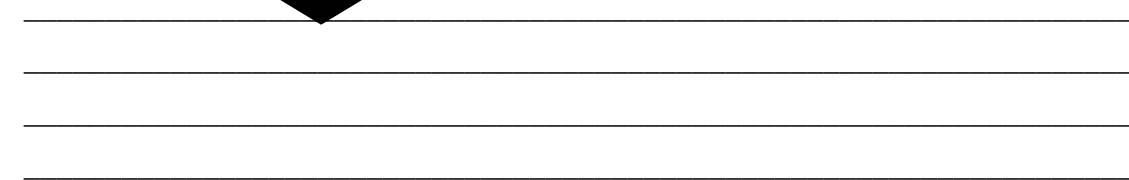
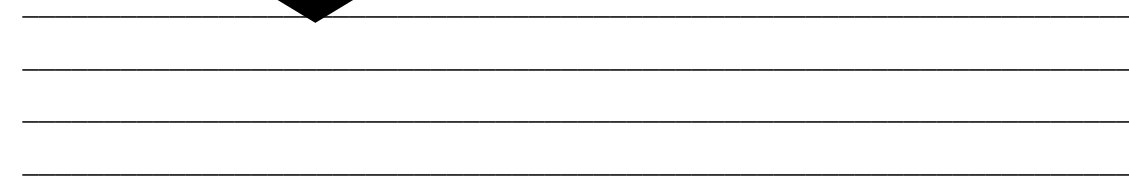
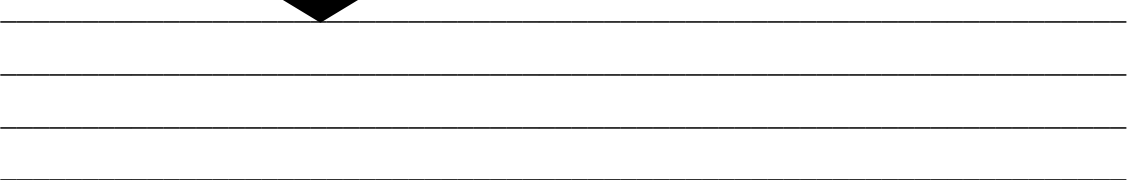
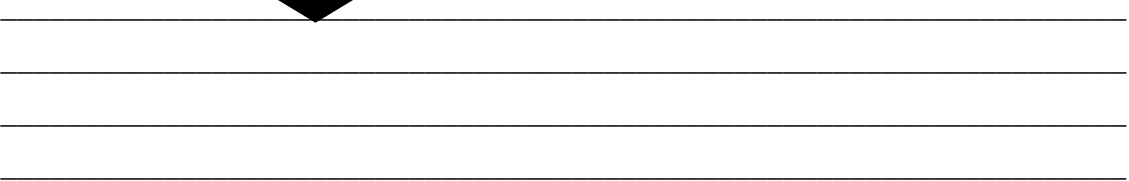
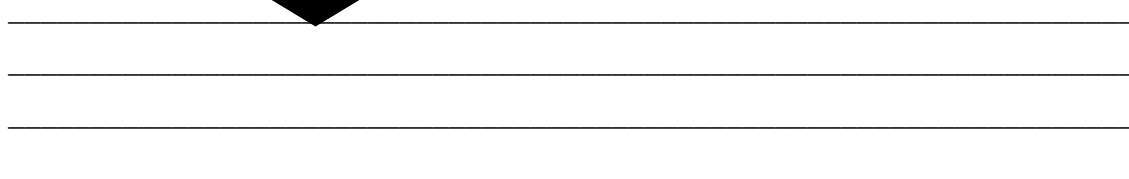
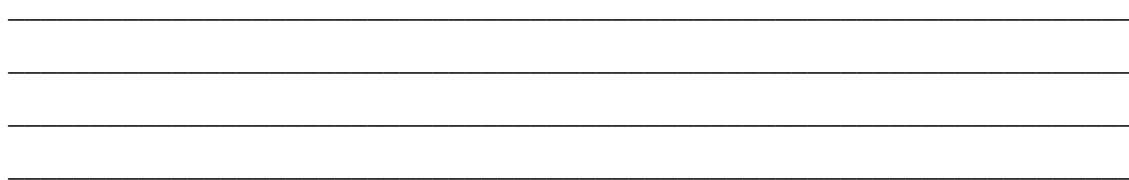
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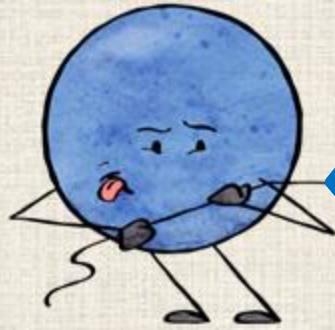


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Sequencing Chart





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