HOW A BEAT IS BUILT

OPENING QUESTION

Ask: “When you hear a song, what are you actually hearing?” Let participants identify sounds they notice. Explain that songs are created by combining different layers.

THE FIVE MAIN ELEMENTS

1. DRUMS — THE RHYTHM

Kick, snare/clap, and hi-hat sounds establish the rhythm and give the music its pulse.

2. BASS — THE BOTTOM

Deeper sounds underneath the music give a beat weight and energy.

3. MELODY — THE PART YOU REMEMBER

Pianos, guitars, synths, bells, and other instruments create the recognizable musical part of a beat.

4. VOCALS & SAMPLES — THE PERSONALITY

Voices, phrases, sound effects, and recorded sounds can be incorporated and manipulated creatively.

5. EFFECTS — THE FLAVOR

Pitch changes, reverb, echo, filters, and other effects can transform existing sounds.

DEMO

Use the existing demo project to hear how the beat changes as layers are added or removed. Play drums alone, then add bass, melody, vocals/samples, and effects. Mute layers again so participants can identify each part.