GENERAL

flocabulary math rap multiplication division and math vocabulary by blake harris

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Flocabulary Math Rap: Multiplication, Division, and Math Vocabulary by Blake /Harris

Imagine a classroom where the hum of a beat, the cadence of rhyme, and the rhythm of numbers blend into a single, unforgettable experience. That experience is the core of **Flocabulary Math Rap**, a dynamic, multimedia approach to teaching core math concepts—especially **multiplication** and **division**—while simultaneously expanding students' **math vocabulary**. Behind this engaging method is the talented rapper and educator **Blake Harris**, whose lyrical mastery turns abstract equations into memorable melodies. This article explores how Flocabulary's rap-based lessons revolutionize math learning, the science behind its effectiveness, and practical ways teachers can integrate the content into their curriculum.

What Is Flocabulary?

Flocabulary is an online platform that transforms academic subjects into hip hop-inspired videos. Created to increase engagement, the site offers over 200 lessons across subjects such as English, social studies, science, and math. Each lesson features an original rap, a short animated video, and accompanying worksheets that reinforce the concepts. The core philosophy is simple: **learning is most effective when it feels like fun and when students can connect emotionally with the material.**

While Flocabulary covers many topics, its math division is particularly noteworthy. The math rap series focuses on foundational skills—multiplication, division, fractions, and word problems—presented in a way that resonates with today's digitally native learners.

The Power of Rap in Math Learning

Rap music has long been celebrated for its linguistic complexity, rhythmic precision, and cultural relevance. Research in educational psychology shows that music can enhance memory retention, improve pattern recognition, and increase motivation—all critical factors in math learning.

- Rhythm and Repetition: Repeated beats help students internalize the structure of multiplication tables and division facts.
- Storytelling: Lyrics often embed mathematical scenarios into narratives, making abstract problems concrete.
- Emotional Connection: Students who feel a personal connection to the music are more likely to engage deeply with the content.

In essence, rap transforms dry formulas into memorable stories, turning every lesson into a mini concert that students can sing along to and recall during tests.

Blake Harris: The Voice Behind the Beats

Blake Harris is not just a rapper; he is a seasoned educator who brings a teacher's perspective into every verse. With a background in elementary education and a passion for hip hop culture, Harris crafts lyrics that are both

pedagogically sound and culturally relevant.

Harris's approach is grounded in the following principles:

1. Student-Centered Storytelling: He writes from the perspective of everyday students, ensuring the content feels relatable.
2. Conceptual Clarity: Each rhyme focuses on one mathematical idea, avoiding overload.
3. Inclusive Language: Harris intentionally uses diverse cultural references to promote inclusivity.

Because Harris is an educator, he understands the curriculum standards and aligns each rap with Common Core benchmarks, making the lessons a seamless fit for classroom instruction.

Multiplication Made Musical

Multiplication, often the first stumbling block for many students, is transformed into an engaging, rhythmic experience. In Flocabulary's "Multiplication Mastery" rap, Harris breaks down the process into three key components:

1. Understanding the Concept: "Multiplication is just repeated addition—think of it as a group of friends adding up."
2. Memorization Through Rhythm: The chorus repeats the 5 by 5 table in sync with a catchy beat, reinforcing recall.
3. Real-World Application: Harris uses scenarios like "buying 3 packs of 4 pencils" to illustrate how multiplication works in everyday life.

Students can practice the rap after the lesson, sing along, and even create their own verses, which helps cement the facts in a fun, creative way.

Division With Rhythm

Division often feels like the inverse of multiplication, and many students struggle with the logic behind it. Flocabulary's "Division Dynamics" rap tackles this challenge by framing division as a process of "sharing" or "splitting."

- Visual Metaphors: Harris uses images of pizza slices and candy bars to illustrate equal sharing.
- Step-by-Step Breakdown: Each verse outlines the steps—dividend, divisor, quotient, and remainder—in a sequential, rhyming format.
- Interactive Challenges: The video includes pause points where students can solve a quick problem before the next beat.

Because the rap emphasizes the relationship between multiplication and division, students can see how the two concepts reinforce each other, strengthening their overall math foundation.

Building Math Vocabulary Through Lyrics

Flocabulary's math raps do more than teach procedures; they also expand students' **math vocabulary**. Harris carefully introduces terms such as "quotient," "remainder," "factor," "product," and "multiple." Each term is highlighted in the lyrics, accompanied by a visual cue in the video.

For example, in the "Multiplication Mastery" rap, the line "We find the product when we multiply" is paired with an animated graphic showing the multiplication table. This multimodal approach ensures that students not only hear the word but also see its meaning in context.

Teachers can reinforce vocabulary by:

- Creating flashcards that pair the term with a definition and a short excerpt from the rap.
- Assigning a “vocabulary journal” where students write down new terms and their personal definitions.
- Encouraging peer teaching, where students explain a concept to classmates using the rap’s language.

Integrating Flocabulary Into the Classroom

Using Flocabulary’s math rap in the classroom is straightforward and versatile. Here’s a step-by-step guide for teachers:

1. Pre-Viewing Preparation: Review the lesson to align it with your unit goals and identify key vocabulary.
2. During the Viewing: Pause the video at critical points to ask comprehension questions and discuss the visuals.
3. Post-Viewing Activities: Provide worksheets that mirror the rap’s structure, or have students write their own verses.
4. Assessment: Use quizzes or oral recitations to gauge retention of facts and vocabulary.
5. Extension: Encourage students to remix the beat or create a group rap that incorporates new math concepts.

Because Flocabulary’s videos are short—usually under 10 minutes—teachers can fit them into a single class period without sacrificing other instructional time.

Benefits for Students

Multiple studies have highlighted the positive impact of music-based learning on academic achievement. Here are some specific benefits students experience with Flocabulary math rap:

- Improved Recall: The rhythmic pattern aids memory, especially for multiplication tables.
- Higher Engagement: Students report feeling more connected to the material, reducing math anxiety.
- Enhanced Problem-Solving: The narrative structure encourages students to think critically about real-life applications.
- Inclusive Learning: By featuring diverse cultural references, the rap resonates with students from varied backgrounds.

Teachers often observe a noticeable uptick in participation and a decline in math-related test anxiety after incorporating rap lessons.

Tips for Teachers

To maximize the impact of Flocabulary math rap, consider the following strategies:

- Blend with Traditional Instruction: Use the rap as a supplement, not a replacement. Follow it up with hands on activities.
- Differentiate Learning: Offer leveled worksheets that match the difficulty level of the rap.
- Encourage Creativity: Invite students to write their own verses on new topics, such as fractions or algebra.
- Leverage Technology: Use classroom devices to allow students to record themselves performing the rap.
- Collaborate with Parents: Share the rap videos so parents can reinforce concepts at home.

Resources and Where to Find the Songs

Flocabulary’s math rap library is freely accessible on the official Flocabulary website. Teachers can search for specific topics—multiplication, division, or math vocabulary—and embed the videos directly into lesson plans.

Additionally, the site offers:

- Printable worksheets that align with each rap.
- Teacher guides that include discussion prompts and assessment ideas.
- Student-friendly “practice” videos that focus on drill and retrieval.

For those seeking more interactive options, **Blake Harris**occasionally releases new rap tracks on platforms like YouTube and Spotify, allowing students to explore beyond the classroom.

Conclusion

Flocabulary Math Rap, featuring the lyrical genius of **Blake Harris**, offers a powerful, evidence-based approach to teaching multiplication, division, and math vocabulary. By marrying the rhythmic allure of hip hop with clear, curriculum-aligned instruction, this method transforms math from a daunting subject into a vibrant, memorable experience.

Teachers who incorporate these rap lessons into their classrooms can expect increased engagement, stronger retention of math facts, and a richer understanding of math vocabulary. Whether you’re a seasoned educator or just beginning your journey, Flocabulary’s music-driven lessons provide a fresh, effective tool to help students thrive in math.

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