

Tendency Tones

Lesson Objective

Teach students how notes within a major scale want to resolve. Help students identify stable and unstable tones within a key both aurally and visually.

Lesson Plans

- Slowly play a major scale against the tonic. Have students listen for the notes that sound stable and for the notes that want to move. You can also play a major scale but end on 7, leaving the scale unresolved. Ask the students to sing the note they want to hear next.
- Go through each tone in the major scale as outlined in the score. Play the tones against the tonic.
- Have the students sing the resolutions for the unstable tones. Use numbers or solfege.
- Analyze song melodies. Observe if the melodies follow the tendency tone guidelines or break the guidelines.