

## **Grade Level: 9–12**

**Title:** Introduction to Playing Chords on Guitar

### **Activity Description:**

In this activity, students will learn how to play basic open chords on the guitar and transition between them. They'll explore how chords are used in popular music and apply their knowledge by playing simple chord progressions together in class. This lesson emphasizes foundational technique, listening skills, and ensemble coordination.

**Learning Objectives:** (What will the students be able to do/demonstrate after they complete this activity?)

- Identify the parts of the guitar and understand basic guitar posture.
- Play 3–4 open chords (e.g., G, C, D, Em).
- Perform a basic strumming pattern consistently.
- Play a short chord progression with proper timing.

**Steps:** (How will you facilitate the activity? What will the students do? What are the steps you and/or the students will do in each of the following areas?)

- Introduction to the guitar– demonstrate the parts of the guitar and how to hold it properly; explain tuning and string names.
- Time for exploration– students try holding the guitar, practice finger placement for one or two chords with teacher guidance.
- Time for practice– students work on switching between chords (e.g., G to C to D) and strumming in time using a slow pattern.
- Peer collaboration– students pair up or form small groups to practice a 4-chord progression together.
- Sharing– students take turns performing the progression solo or in groups for the class.
- Reflection– students write a short reflection about what was easy or difficult and what they want to improve next time.