

Home Learning Music Activities KS2 Years 5 & 6 - Spring Term – Week 3

NOTE FOR PARENTS/CARERS We hope you and your children enjoy these activities. Dip in and out, try things out, pick and choose what works for you and your children. You don't have to attempt them all! Most of all, have fun together.

We recommend that YouTube videos are reviewed before children access them as, occasionally, inappropriate comments may be posted after we've viewed them.

HELLO MUSIC MAESTROS!

How are you all doing? We've really enjoyed hearing how much fun you've been having being musical. Well done!

This week we are going to explore some of your history topics through music. The Ancient Egyptians performing on 'The Pyramid Stage' at Glastonbury or the Romans enjoying a bit of 'Latin music' maybe? (Hmmm... perhaps we should stick with the music and leave the jokes to people who are actually funny!) 😊

Singing

This week, as well as suggesting some songs for you to try, we thought we'd include a few more tips to help you improve your singing.

Warm Ups

Just as it's important to warm up our muscles before PE, it is really important to warm up our vocal muscles before we sing. Have a go at some of the vocal warmups you sing at school. Or, if you'd like an extra challenge, have a go at the warmup below:

[Vocal Warmups for Kids from Sing! Voice Studio - YouTube](#)

Anglo-Saxons

For those of you learning about the Anglo-Saxons, have a go at this song.

[Anglo-Saxons - I'm An Anglo-Saxon \(Song\) - YouTube](#)

This song has a 'heavy metal' sound and a very catchy chorus. It's a great song for trying out singing in different octaves. This means using your chest voice where you sing low and imagine the sound is coming from your chest, not your mouth. Or singing with a high voice and imagining the sound is shooting out of your forehead like a unicorn's horn. Whichever of these you try, it's really important to be relaxed, especially in your neck, throat, shoulders and jaw. It makes it much easier and more comfortable to sing.

World War 2

One of the most famous and inspirational performers at the time of World War 2 was Dame Vera Lynn. Her songs were full of reassurance and hope for the future; exactly what was needed at a time when people felt worried and uncertain. This song was one of her most famous. You may well have heard it before.

[The White Cliffs of Dover - Lyrics - Vera Lynn - YouTube](#)

The tune is quite straightforward and it has a nice, steady pace. The key to singing songs like this is in their performance. Your words should be clear so people understand them. Your face should tell the story as much as the words. And your voice should be reassuring. Think about which words need an emphasis: the shepherd WILL tend his sheep, the valley WILL bloom again.

Horrible Histories - Monarch's Song

Here at Encore, we LOVE Horrible Histories, and this song is one of their best. But have you ever tried to learn it? (Note: this is a task that needs a bit of determination, but it is lots of fun and worth the effort!)

[Horrible Histories Song: The Monarchs' Song: Kings & Queens Song - CBBC - BBC](#)

Firstly, have a listen to the song. You'll see that the chorus builds throughout the song. Start with the first line:

William, William, Henry, Stephen

Repeat this to yourself quite a few times. Then do the same with line 2:

Henry, Richard, John, oi!

Then put the two lines together and practice that:

William, William, Henry, Stephen

Henry, Richard, John, oi!

Next, play the song and practice singing these lines each time they come up.

Then repeat this process adding in 2 new lines at a time until you can sing the whole chorus!

William, William, Henry, Stephen

Henry, Richard, John, oi!

Henry, Ed, Ed, Ed, Rich two

Then three more Henrys join our song

Edward, Edward, Rich the third

Henry, Henry, Ed again

Mary one, good Queen Bess

Jimmy, Charles and Charles and then

Jim, Will, Mary, Anna Gloria

George, George, George, George, Will, Victoria

Edward, George, Edward, George six

And Queen Liz two completes the mix

For anyone who wants an extra challenge, or who just wants to sing along, we have included the to the whole song lyrics (at the end of these notes). Have fun!

Listening and appraising

Close your eyes as you listen to this beautiful piece of music. What thoughts and images come to your mind?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ius8hx63Hso>

- How did you feel? Calm, excited, relaxed maybe? Share your ideas!
- Did you like this piece? If you did, can you explain why? If you didn't, try to explain why not?

This piece is 'Fantasia on Greensleeves' by the English composer **Ralph Vaughan Williams**. He borrowed that lovely tune 'Greensleeves'. You'll never guess who wrote the original! See if you can find out. HINT: Think of a famous English king. (Answer at the end of these notes.)

Did you know: A 'fantasia' is a piece of music with tunes that seems to drift along wherever they want to!

Listen again to the music. This time we've chosen a video with lots of pictures. How many places do you recognise?
<https://youtu.be/Ak85S5KZoKE>

Do you recognise any of the instruments? How many different instruments can you hear?

In some sections of the piece, the music goes faster, slower, quieter, louder? Why do you think the composer wrote it like this?

Can you hum or whistle this tune or even play it by ear on an instrument you have at home? Why don't you give it a try?

And now for something completely different! Here's another Horrible Histories song! Click on this link [Horrible Histories Song: The Vikings - Literally - CBBC - BBC](#) Watch, listen and enjoy!

Questions

1. What style is the song?
2. What is the song about? Write down five facts we hear about the Vikings.
3. What makes this song humorous? Think about what the band are singing about and the images we see.

Did you know: rock and roll musicians sometimes refer to the guitar as an 'axe'? Why does knowing this add an extra layer of fun to the song?

Composing

If we asked you to explain what a composer is, what would you say? Here's a clue; we get our word 'composer' from the Latin word 'compono' which means 'one who puts together'. Composers 'put together' or write music in all sorts of styles and especially classical music. So now you know!

We've got two composing activities for you to choose from. You'll need some extra family or friends to help you with both.

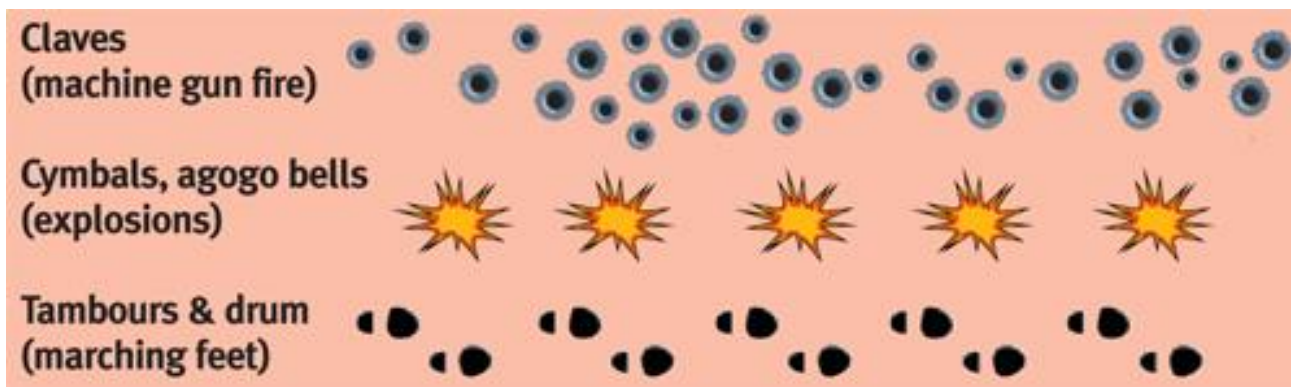
World War 2 – Compose a wartime soundscape

Think about the sounds that would be heard during an air-raid: gunfire, sirens, explosions, falling masonry, people calling out, soldiers marching etc.

You probably won't have instruments at home so can you find objects that could represent these sounds? Maybe tap a tray for machine gun fire, hit a metal tin lid for an explosion, use a wooden box for the rhythm of marching feet. I'm sure you could think of others.

Make up a short piece called 'Air-raid'.

- How will you start? What mood do you want to create? What rhythms will you use? What sounds could represent machine-gun fire? What about dynamics (louds and softs)? How will you end?
- Could you write your piece down using a 'graphic score'? Here's an example to get you started:



Source: https://www.teachprimary.com/learning_resources/view/cross-curricular-topic-wwii

If you or someone you live with plays an instrument, could you add a tune or chords to your piece?

The music could be based on any sounds associated with wartime: ammunition factory machinery, trains taking evacuees away from bombing raids or countryside noises so unfamiliar to London children.

The Environment – Compose using voices and clapping

If you'd like a break from history, try this.

In this activity, a group of children who've never composed music before, work as a team to produce a short piece performed entirely using their voices and clapping. Their inspiration comes from the environment around them, in particular a graffitied wall which is full of colour. Could you use the place where you live for inspiration?

The children turn what they see into rhythmic patterns and layer up the sounds to create a composition. You'll be amazed how a few simple patterns can become an exciting piece of music. Click here to find out what to do:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/music-ks3-composing-a-piece-of-music-using-unpitched-percussion/zfdmpg8>

ACTIVITY: Why not research some famous composers? There are loads you could choose. Start your research here: [Classics For Kids](#) How about finding out about Beethoven or Tchaikovsky, for example? Click here [10 best pieces of classical music for kids - Classic FM](#) and choose a piece to listen to. Why not tell someone you live with how you feel after listening to the music?

Making and Performing

Do you know what a sistrum is? Thought not! It's a hand-held percussion instrument that was played by Egyptian court musicians when they entertained the pharaohs and their very important guests. The sistrum was also used by the Romans during religious ceremonies. Instead of shaking it around like you might play maracas, the sistrum was moved back and forth so the rattles or jingles on the instrument created a "swooshing" sound.

Here's how to make your own wooden sistrum. You'll need to **ask an adult to help you** find the materials and make it.

First, you just need to find the right branch in the shape of a "Y", then add the wires plus the jingles to create your version of this ancient instrument.

Activity 1: Make a sistrum

Here are items you'll need to make a wooden sistrum.



Enjoy!

- A tree branch shaped like a "Y"
- Assorted buttons, jingle bells or metal washers
- A small amount of floral wire, fishing twine or embroidery thread
- A wire-cutter (**Ask an adult to help if you are using these!**)

1. Thread different kinds of buttons, jingle bells or metal washers onto a small piece of floral wire or any type of thin wire. (You can also use fishing twine or embroidery thread, but wire is better at keeping the bangles in place.)
2. Tie or secure the wire in place on each side of the branch by twisting the wire securely around the branch (making sure no pointy parts are sticking out).
3. You can now decorate your instrument. Try out your instrument. It should make a pleasing sound when "swooshed" from one side to another.

Activity 2: Listen and play along

Click on the link below, follow the clip and learn how to play the sistrum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7pYdPOS4yw>

Activity 3: Improvisation

Listen to this beautiful Egyptian music. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsIsS-Uu5x4>

Now have a go at playing your sistrum along with the music. Try to capture the mood as you play.

- Think about improvising (making up) rhythms that fit with the music.
- Alter the dynamics (volume) as you play to keep it interesting.

All of us at Encore Music Service would love to see video clips of you taking part in any of this week's activities and share them on our social media channels. Remember, you must get permission from whoever looks after you first! Send to info@encore-enterprises.com

ANSWERS

Listening and Appraising - Fantasia on Greensleeves

Answer - Henry VIII

Listening and Appraising – Viking Song

1. Soft Rock

2. Viking raids on Britain

3. The contrast between knowing the Vikings were tough, ruthless invaders and then seeing them perform a rock song!

'The Monarch's Song' – from BBC Horrible Histories

[William I]

I'm William the Conqueror
My enemies stood no chance
They call me the first English king
Although I come from France
1066, the Domesday book
I gave to history
So fat on death my body burst
But enough about me
To help remember all your kings
I've come up with this song
A simple rhyme and ditty
For you all to sing along
Oh...

William

Bit short, innit?
We need more kings! Who came next?

[Henry I]

William second, cheeks were red
Killed out 'unting, so it's said
I took over, Henry one
That's my next eldest son
Then came Stephen, it's true, check it!

[Henry II]

I, Henry two, killed Thomas Beckett
Richard Lionheart? That's right!
Always spoiling for a fight
Oh King John, what a disaster
Rule restrained by Magna Carta

[All so far]

William, William, Henry, Stephen
Henry, Richard, John, oi!

[Henry II]

Time for my mate, King Henry eight
To take up this song

[Henry VIII]

Henry three built the abbey
Ed one hated Scots
A red hot poker killed Ed two
That must have hurt him lots
Edward third was a chivalry nerd
Began the hundred years war

[Henry V]

Then Richard two was king aged ten
Then Henry, yes, one more
King Henry four, plots galore
Not least from Henry five
Moi? I Killed ten score at Agincourt

Then Henry six arrived (Waaa!)

[Henry VIII]

Edward four, Edward five
Richard the third, he's bad
'Cause he fought wars with Henry seventh
First Tudor and my dad
So Henry eight, I was great
Six wives, two were beheaded
Edward the sixth came next
But he died young and so my dreaded
Daughter Mary ruled, so scary
Then along came...

[Elizabeth I]

Me!
I'm Liz the first, I had no kids
So Tudors RIP

[All so far]

William, William, Henry, Stephen
Henry, Richard, John, oi!
Henry, Ed, Ed, Ed, Rich two
Then three more Henrys join our song
Edward, Edward, Rich the third
Henry, Henry, Ed again
Mary one, good Queen Bess

[Elizabeth I]

That's me, time for more men

James six of Scotland next
As English James the first he led
Then Stuarts ruled, so Charles the first
The one who lost his head

[Charles II]

No monarchy until came me
Charles two, I liked to party
King Jimmy two was scary, woo!
Then Mary was a smarty
She ruled with Bill, their shoes were filled
By sourpuss Queen Anne Gloria
And so from then, you were ruled by men

[Victoria]

'Til along came me - Victoria!

[All so far]

William, William, Henry, Stephen
Henry, Richard, John, oi!
Henry, Ed, Ed, Ed, Rich two
Then three more Henrys join our song
Edward, Edward, Rich the third

Henry, Henry, Ed again
Mary one, good Queen Bess
Jimmy, Charles and Charles and then
Jim, Will, Mary, Anna Gloria
Still to come, it's Queen Victoria

[George IV]
And so began the Hanover gang
George one and George two

[Victoria]
Grim!
Then George the third was quite absurd

[George IV]
'Til I replaced old him

[Victoria]
King George the fourth and known henceforth
As angry, fat and cross

[George IV]
Hang on!

[Victoria]
It's true you beat Napoleon
But were mostly a dead loss

[George IV]
Bang on!

[Victoria]
Old William four was a sailor

[George IV]
Ahoy!

[Victoria]
It's nearly the end of the story-a
As onto the scene comes the best loved queen
Hail to Queen Victoria!

[All]
William, William, Henry, Stephen
Henry, Richard, John, oi!
Henry, Ed, Ed, Ed, Rich two
Then three more Henrys join our song
Edward, Edward, Rich the third
Henry, Henry, Ed again
Mary one, good Queen Bess
Jimmy, Charles and Charles and then
Jim, Will, Mary, Anna Gloria
George, George, George, George
Will, Victoria
Victoria, Victoria, Victoria

[Victoria]
I ruled for sixty four years, you know

Ed seven, George five
Then Ed, George sixth
Liz two then reigned and how
And so our famous monarch song
Is brought right up to now

[All]
Oh...
William, William, Henry, Stephen
Henry, Richard, John, oi!
Henry, Ed, Ed, Ed, Rich two
Then three more Henrys join our song
Edward, Edward, Rich the third
Henry, Henry, Ed again
Mary one, good Queen Bess
Jimmy, Charles and Charles and then
Jim, Will, Mary, Anna Gloria
George, George, George, George,
Will, Victoria
Edward, George, Edward, George six
And Queen Liz two completes the mix

That's all the English kings and queens
Since William first that there have been!