



## Home Learning Music Activities KS2 Years 5 & 6 - Spring Term – Week 4

*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!

We live on an amazing planet! Do you like finding out about other countries and the people who live there? Maybe you're fascinated by nature, by oceans, rivers, deserts or mountains. There's so much for us to discover about planet Earth! This week we are going to take geography as our theme and explore our world through music. Our bags are packed...off we go! 😊

### Singing

A Scottish postman has recently been in the news. Do you know why? Nathan Evans became famous after he uploaded videos of himself singing sea shanties. His most famous recording so far is **'Wellerman'**. You can hear Nathan Evans singing it here: [Nathan Evans - Wellerman \(Official Audio\)](#)



But what is a sea shanty?

**Sea shanties** were songs sung by sailors working on ships. They've been around from at least the fifteenth century (the 1400s) right up to the days of steam ships in the first half of the 20th century. Most of the sea shanties we know were first performed in the 1800's.

Two of the main jobs on board sailing ships were raising the halyard (pulling the ropes to hoist the sail) and reefing the sail (making the sail smaller to carry the ship in strong winds). Sea shanties were sung to help the sailors to heave (push) and haul (pull) in time together. The 'shanty man' would call out and the other sailors would shout back or respond. This 'call and response' became a very popular way of singing seas shanties. Shanties also helped to lift the spirits of the sailors when they got bored!

Find out more about **'Wellerman'** and learn to sing it with the wonderful Mrs Durrant!

[The Wellerman - voyage 1 - YouTube](#)

**'John Kanaka'** is a sea shanty from the South Sea Islands. (If you don't know where that is, could you find out?). It's sung by a group of Cornish fishermen who formed a group called 'The Fishermen's Friends'. Have a go at singing along. The line 'John kanaka naka tura yay' repeats so you'll soon pick it up! You'll find the lyrics at the end of these notes. [John Kanaka - YouTube](#)

Here's another well-known sea shanty. You'll soon pick up the tune.

[BLOW The MAN DOWN words lyrics text sea chantey sing along song - YouTube](#)

## **Performing**

Here's a version of 'The Wellerman' with body percussion which you'll love! There are a lot of actions so start with just the claps and stamps and gradually add actions as you get more confident. [The Wellerman TikTok Sea Shanty \(Nathan Evans\) Body Percussion \\*Party Edition\\* - YouTube](#)

## **Quiz**

Here's a quiz about the Atlantic Ocean where clipper ships once sailed. Find out the answers to these questions? (Answers at the end of these notes)

- 1) Whereabouts is the Atlantic Ocean?
- 2) What does the word Atlantic mean?
- 3) How big is the Atlantic Ocean?
- 4) How deep is the Atlantic Ocean?
- 5) What temperature is the Atlantic Ocean?
- 6) Name one of the well-known waterways in the Atlantic Ocean
- 7) Name three major ports in the Atlantic Ocean.
- 8) What is the greatest width of the Atlantic Ocean?
- 9) Name three big cities on the Atlantic Ocean.
- 10) Who was the first European to reach North America, 500 years before Columbus?

## **Listening and appraising**

This week, we have two different listening activities for you to choose from. One where you can just listen quietly and think about the music and one where there is an activity for you to do.

### **Quiet Listening**

Composers are often inspired by locations and landscape. This piece of music goes a step further and actually uses features of the local climate to make the music! Sarah Dere-Jones is a harpist who uses two different kinds of harp in her music. The Celtic harp is a traditional harp – the sound is made by the player plucking the strings. The Aeolian harp is a bit different. The sound is made by the wind blowing through the strings!

Listen to this beautiful piece called 'Lost Souls'. [Lost Souls | Sarah Deere-Jones \(bandcamp.com\)](#)

Find a comfy place to sit and listen. You will hear the sound of the Aeolian harp as the wind blows through its strings. The wind is coming from Skellig Michael which is a dramatic, steep sided island off the coast of Kerry in Ireland. You will then hear Sarah improvising tunes that come into her head as she sits gazing at the view. If ever you need a few minutes of calm in your busy day, this is a beautiful piece of music to just sit and relax with!

### **Active Listening**

Astor Piazzolla was an Argentinian composer who grew up listening to the strong rhythms of the Argentine tango. His family moved to America when he was four where he heard lots of jazz music. The places where Piazzolla lived had a huge impact on the music he went on to write. Eventually he created a new tango style which blended tango music with the influences of jazz and classical music.

Have a listen to one of his most well-known pieces, 'Libertango'. This is a fantastic version featuring a cajon, guitar, button accordion and double bass as well as a small orchestra. The soloists are amazing and it's very hard to sit still and not find yourself tapping along! As you listen, jot down words to describe the way each musician performs. You may find yourself using words like flamboyant and fast fingered or gentle

and thoughtful. It is a magnificent performance showing the diverse musical influences Piazzollo experienced. [\(3\) Libertango in Berlin Philharmonic \(amazing!!!\) - YouTube](#)

## **Composing**

Do you remember what the Latin word 'compono' means? That's right! It means 'one who puts together' and it became the English word 'composer'.

### **'Geographical Graphic'**

This week, we're going to compose music and write it down using 'graphic notation'. Graphic notation uses pictures or shapes to represent (or help us think of) a sound. Watch this video to see how easy it is to compose using graphic notation: <https://youtu.be/INYT2tgFLVY>

Now have a go at making up your own piece. All you need is some paper and coloured pencils or felt tips and a bit of imagination! Remember, our theme is geography. What will your music be about? The Rainforest, mountains, a city, a river, somewhere hot, a country, a city or a place you like? Which words will you choose? Now turn your words into music. You could also create sounds to match your chosen topic.

Use graphic notation to write your music down. Use body percussion (taps, slaps, claps) and vocal sounds (humming, hissing), or find objects around the house to use as instruments. Remember to ask permission first! If you play a musical instrument, play it! Go on - you can do it!

### **'Geographical Journey'**

Have a listen to this song written to help us learn about the seven continents of the world:  
<https://youtu.be/K6DSMZ8b3LE>

Now have a go at writing your own geography themed song. You can choose to do this task on your own or ask a family member to help you. It's easier than you think!

Nathan Evans' original performance of 'Wellerman' was just him singing and tapping out a simple beat as a backing? Use this as the model for your geography song.

First, we need some lyrics. Your song could be about anything to do with geography but if you're not sure what to choose, how about writing about a journey of exploration! Where do you want to go? A city, a village, a desert or a jungle. Who is going with you? Where are you visiting? How will you travel - driving, running or walking? Do some research. If your song is about a journey through the Amazon, find some interesting facts to include.

Turn your facts into a poem that tells a story. Keep the story simple. Use some rhymes. Rhymes bring rhythms or musicality to poems.

Next, clap steady beats (just like Nathan Evans does) and try fitting your words around them. At first, make it simple so you can do it much more easily. Here's an example: "London's in England, Madrid's in Spain". Clap where the words are underlined. Now let's turn this line into two rhyming lines.

*"London's in England, Madrid's in Spain.  
I just can't wait to go back there again"*

Finally, make up a catchy melody (a melody is the tune) to go with your lyrics. Sing a tune to go with your words, one line at a time. Make something up. Anything. Don't be shy! Try out lots of ideas. Keep going! You'll know when you get a good tune as you will find it sticks in your memory. You might even 'borrow' a tune you already like to get you started.

If you have a ukulele, guitar, piano or keyboard at home, play a few chords and add your tune on top.

GOOD LUCK!

## **National Instruments from Around the World**

There are many, many different types of musical instruments all over the world. Instruments are used for different reasons in different cultures: storytelling, sending messages to other people, in religious ceremonies, dancing, games, films and much more.

Quiz yourself on your knowledge of world instruments! Play this video but the first time, just listen to the sounds of the instruments. Do you recognise any? Can you name them? [National Instruments Around The World - YouTube](#)

Play the video again and this time, pause the video before it reveals where each instrument is from. Write down where you think each instrument is from. How many did you get right? Have you seen any of these instruments before, and if you have, did you know their names?

## **Where in the World Quiz**

How well do you know where singers that are the charts were born? Try this quiz to find out! Pinpoint where you think come from on the map. It might help to have a map or atlas with you to look at.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/top-class-music-map>

## **Weird and wonderful Instruments**

Play the video and stop at 7 minutes and 20 seconds. You'll see three incredible clips.

Looking after the Earth by recycling our rubbish is something that most people think is very important. The first clip shows how one man recycled old bits and pieces that people have thrown away to become weird and wonderful musical instruments.

Keep watching to see an amazing underground instrument.

Finally, you'll hear how vegetables can be turned into an orchestra!

[Listen to the World's Wildest Instruments - YouTube \(youtube-nocookie.com\)](#)

*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](mailto:info@encore-enterprises.com)*



**Quiz answers**

1) The Atlantic Ocean is split into two parts by the equator, the north and south. To the west of the Atlantic Ocean is North and South America and to the east is Europe and Africa.

2) Atlantic means, 'sea of atlas', which comes from Greek mythology.

3) The Atlantic Ocean is the second biggest, with the Pacific being the first. It covers 25% of surface of the Earth.

4) The average depth is 3,339 metres. The deepest part is 8,605 metres in Puerto Rico.

5) The ocean is warmer where it is closer to the equator. It can reach 28°C near the equator and -2°C near polar regions.

6) The straights of Gibraltar (between Spain and Morrocco) or the Bosporus (in Turkey).

7) Rotterdam (Netherlands), Hamburg (Germany), New York (USA), Buenos Aires

(Argentina), Colon (Panama).

8) 1770 miles (between Brazil and Sierra Leone).

9) Miami (USA), Sao Paolo (Brazil), Cape Town (South Africa), Lagos (Nigeria), Casablanca (Morocco), Lisbon (Portugal), London (UK), Reykjavik (Iceland)

10) Leif Erikson (970-1020). The Icelander is said to have been the first man from Europe to cross the Atlantic Ocean and step onto North American land. He named the eastern coast of Canada 'Vinland', which is believed to be what is now Newfoundland.

**John Kanaka**

I thought I heard the old man say,  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
Today, today it's a holiday  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
Tura yay, oh, tura yay  
John kanaka-naka tura yay

Them Frisco girls ain't got no combs  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
They comb their hair with the herring  
back bone  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
Tura yay, oh, tura yay  
John kanaka-naka tura yay

I thought I heard the old man say,  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
Today, today it's a holiday  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
Tura yay, oh, tura yay  
John kanaka-naka tura yay

We're bound away at the break of  
day  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
We're bound away for Frisco Bay  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
Tura yay, oh, tura yay  
John kanaka-naka tura yay

Just one more heave and that'll do.  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
For we're the crew to pull her  
through  
John kanaka-naka tura yay  
Tura yay, oh, tura yay  
John kanaka-naka tura yay