

Musical Express



Recommended year group: Year 4 Theme focus: Music Suggested term: Autumn

Theme introduction

Musical Express is a theme that is focused on music. It also includes science, wellbeing and design technology. In Musical Express, pupils learn how music can influence our mood, and how it can inspire us. Pupils will look at how different types of music are presented, such as theatre music and film music. They will also look at key composers in both the world of theatre and film, namely Andrew Lloyd Webber, John Williams and Hans Zimmer. Pupils will learn how we hear, and how our ears work, before investigating sound waves. They will create their own instruments and rank them in terms of pitch. Finally, pupils will learn a song from a show and perform it to an audience.

Driving Question

What is the soundtrack to your life?

Switch on Science Unit

What's that sound?

Switch on Computing Unit

We are musicians

Linked Reading Texts

Music (What on Earth Books) by Chris Lloyd

The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield

Writing Outcomes

Explanation:

How do we hear? A report written for my teacher

Adventure story:

Based on *The Bear and the Piano* by David Litchfield

Curriculum Coverage

Music – Appreciate and understand, rhythm and singing; improvise and compose; instruments; notation

DT – Represent design ideas; make; tools

Science – Sound

History – Significant individuals

Excite

Guess that sound! Play a selection of sounds for the class – these could include environmental sounds, e.g. washing machine, musical instruments or songs to identify. The class could in teams and make it competitive game to identify the sounds.

Explore

There are thirteen explore sessions:

Explore 1: Musical inspiration

Explore 2: How the ear works

Explore 3: Sound waves

Explore 4: Sounds of Science

Explore 5: Movie music

Explore 6: Sound effects

Explore 7: Comic strips

Explore 8: Orchestral music

Explore 9: Investigating pitch

Explore 10: Visual representation

Explore 11: Musical notation

Explore 12: Theatre music

Explore 13: Song from a show

Theme essential vocabulary

atmosphere, composer, decibel, lyrics, musical note, orchestra, pitch, sound effect, sound wave, vibration

Essential knowledge/concepts

1. Music can have an impact on how a person is feeling; different people will feel differently about the same music.
2. Sound travels as vibrations through the ear to the brain.
3. Sound is measured in decibels.
4. Sounds are made when things vibrate. These vibrations are known as sound waves.
5. Sounds can be used to represent events from the past.
6. Music can be used to create atmosphere in films and TV programmes.
7. Audio dramas use sound effects created by humans or electronic devices to add sound.
8. There are four instrument families in the orchestra: woodwind, strings, brass and percussion
9. There are musical notes called semi-breve, minim, crotchet, quaver and semi-quaver.
10. There are three main musical clefs: treble clef, bass clef and alto clef.
11. Andrew Lloyd Webber is a famous musician who has composed lots of musical theatre scores.

Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

Explore 3: Sound waves

Explore 6: Sound effects

Explore 8: Orchestral music

Explore 11: Musical notation

Explore 13: Song from a show

Exhibit

Personalised playlists for people close to them.
Pupils create playlists for family members and justify their decisions.

Perform a song: Work with the music service to create a performance- either individual or in bands.

Possible wider experience

Pupils could hear live music being performed either in a theatre, concert hall or open space.

Pupils could visit a museum about music, e.g. the Beatles Museum in Liverpool.

Flipped learning opportunities

1. Investigate the different genres of music.
2. Map thoughts and ideas for your own song.

Family learning suggestion

Find, share and express opinions about a range of musical pieces across a range of genres. Over the course of the theme, this could develop into a comprehensive project focused on key pieces of music.

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music

If I were a rich man from *Fiddler on the Roof* by Sheldon Harnick

Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar

Key piece of art

Going to Work – by J.S. Lowry

Key poem

At the Pantomime by John Mole