



Music

Year 4 – Summer 1

Blackbird

Listen & Appraise: Blackbird (Pop)

Themes: Equality, civil rights.

Instruments/voices you can hear: Solo male vocals in the verses, another male vocal in the choruses, acoustic guitar, percussion, birdsong.

- Do the words of the song tell a story?
- Does the music create a story in your imagination? What story?

Musical Activities

using glockenspiels for the note playing

Warm-up games - play and copy back using 2 notes – C and D.

Singing in unison

Play instrumental parts with the song by ear and/or from notation. You will be using up to 3 notes – C, D and E.

Improvise using up to 3 notes – C, D and E.

Compose a simple melody using simple rhythms choosing from the notes C, D and E or C, D, E, G and A (the Pentatonic Scale).

Perform & Share

- Decide how you going to perform this song. It tells an important story.
- Tell your audience how you learnt this song and why.
- Record the performance and talk about it afterwards.

Other song suggestions

Listen to 5 other songs by The Beatles

- Yellow Submarine
- Hey Jude
- Can't Buy Me Love
- Yesterday
- Let It Be

Extra facts/information

The Beatles helped to reshape Western Pop music in the 1960s and are one of the most successful bands ever. The Beatles had four members: John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr.

In the 1950s and 1960s, slavery had been abolished in America, but racism was still rife and life wasn't equal for African Americans. The civil rights movement – led by Martin Luther King Jr. – challenged this. There was a huge struggle for equality. Lots of dreadful things were going on and people were dying. After reading about this, Paul wrote the song Blackbird about a black woman, in support of the Black Power Movement.

Musical Concepts

Texture

The texture of a piece of music describes how the different sounds are being woven together. A thick texture uses several ideas at once. A thinner texture will have fewer parts. A whole class singing "Frere Jacques" is a thin texture. A few children singing the same song as a four-part round, starting at different times will create a thicker texture.


Dynamics


Dynamics are used to describe the volume of one or more notes in a piece of music. The dynamic can change gradually or suddenly. Symbols known as dynamic markings, based on Italian descriptions, are often used.


Year group and unit specific vocabulary

Chords – A group of two or more notes played together (usually three notes).

Harmony – Different notes sung or played at the same time to produce chords.

Crotchet – A 1-beat note. 

Minim – A 2-beat note. 

Semibreve – A 4-beat note. 

Quaver – A half-beat note. 

Composers – People who create music.

Phrase – A group of sounds that make sense when played in a sequence (like a musical sentence).

Texture – Layers of sounds in music/how sounds are combined in a piece of music.

Melody – Another name for a tune.

Composing – Making/creating a piece of music or short musical phrase.

Pentatonic scale – A five note scale.

