

1 – 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?

2 – Musical Activities using glocks and/or recorders

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

Bronze: no notes | Silver: C | Gold: C, sometimes D challenge.

Which challenge did you get to?

Singing in unison.

Play instrumental parts with the song by ear and/or from notation using the easy or medium part. You will be using up to 3 notes – C, D + E. *Which part did you play?*

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

Bronze: C | Silver: C, and sometimes D | Gold: C, D + E challenge.

Which challenge did you get to?

Compose a simple melody using simple rhythms choosing from the notes C, D + E or C, D, E, G + A (the pentatonic scale).

3 – 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.

The performance will include one or more of the following:

Improvisations • Instrumental performances • Compositions



About this Unit

Themes: The Beatles, equality and civil rights.

Facts/info: 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.

Listen to 5 other songs by The Beatles

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

Vocabulary: Acoustic guitar, percussion, birdsong, civil rights, racism, equality, pentatonic scale, unison, pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, texture structure, compose, improvise, hook, riff, melody, solo

Reflection

What did you like best about this Unit? Why? Was there anything you didn't enjoy about it? Why?

Did you have any strong feelings about it? Were you proud of yourself, happy or annoyed?