

Unit: Ancient worlds

Musical focus: Structure

Subject link: History

LESSON

1

LESSON PLAN

LESSON LEARNING

- Exploring tuned and untuned percussion to create soothing, repetitive music based on ostinati
- Singing a song and accompanying it with tuned percussion ostinati

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Bass xylophones – notes D A
- Tuned instruments, eg chime bars – notes D F G A B
- Untuned percussion, eg wind chimes, cymbals and soft beaters/brushes

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The story of Orpheus

Listen to lyre music and discover why Orpheus joined the Argonauts

Children:

- watch a movie and listen to lyre music, noticing playing techniques and musical effects;
- learn about ancient Greek musician Orpheus.

Soothing the dragon

Combine musical ideas to create music to soothe the dragon

Children:

- learn a bass ostinato on tuned percussion;
- learn a melodic ostinato on tuned percussion;
- combine two ostinati in two groups;
- combine ostinati with sounds on untuned percussion to create descriptive music.

Song for Orpheus

Learn a song to add to the soothing dragon music

Children:

- learn a song;
- accompany the song with instrumental ostinati and descriptive sounds.

Support: Pairs of children can share one tuned instrument to play the blue and gold Soothing the dragon ostinati. Choose beaters that add to the gentle mood of the music, eg felt or soft rubber and, ideally, give each child a pair of beaters.

VOCABULARY

- Ostinato/ostinati
- Dynamics

EXTENDED LEARNING

Explore different ways to structure a performance of the song *Orpheus* with the ostinati, eg build the instrumental accompaniment starting with the bass ostinato and adding in the other ostinato and untuned percussion sounds one by one; add the song; then direct the instrumental ideas to drop out of the performance one at a time leaving the bass ostinato.