



Knowledge Organiser: Folksongs

Topic Background

Folk music is popular all over the world and is used for social events such as weddings, parties, gatherings and also as part of work songs such as sea shanties. Each country's music will have distinct features or characteristics such as the themes, instruments, tempo, types of dance etc. Folk music means 'music of the folk', the people. Folk music often tells stories about love, war or nature. People would learn folk songs aurally (by ear) within their families and communities and pass them down generation by generation. Songs would change over time as each time people repeated a song it might be sung differently and people might hear it differently.

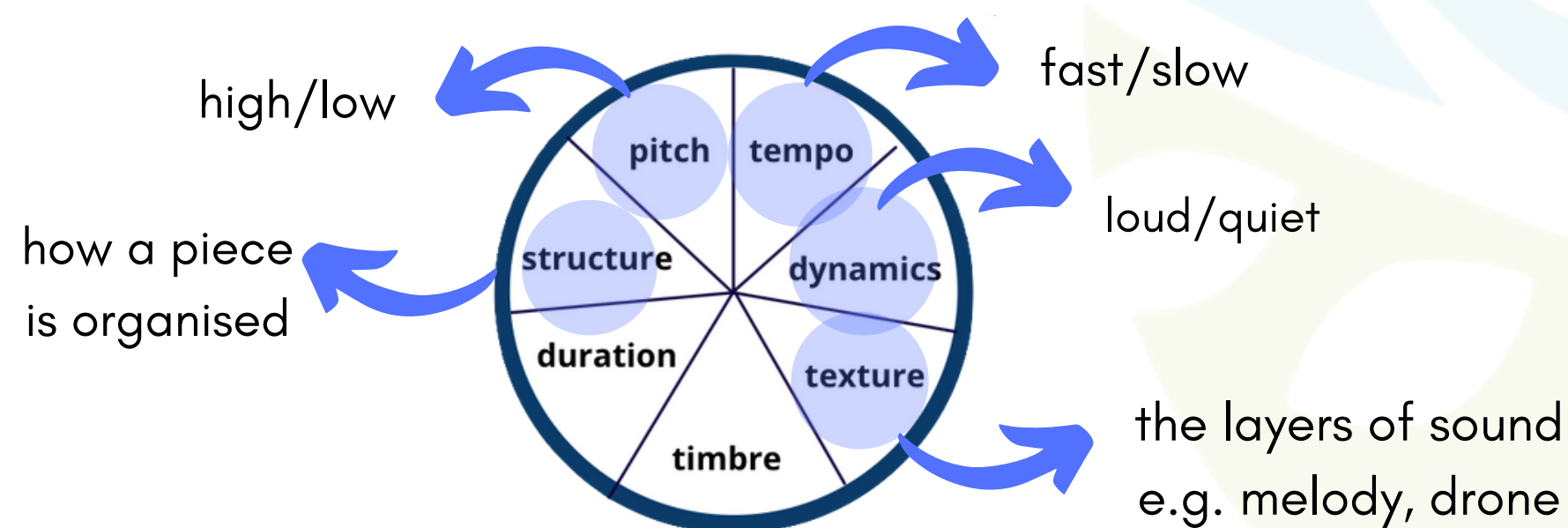
Listening Pieces

- Wellerman, Nathan Evans, 2021
- Hornpipe, Sir Henry Wood
- Dance to your Daddy, *Trad.*
- Off She Goes Jig, *Trad.*
- Round and Round, *Trad.*
- My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, *Trad.*



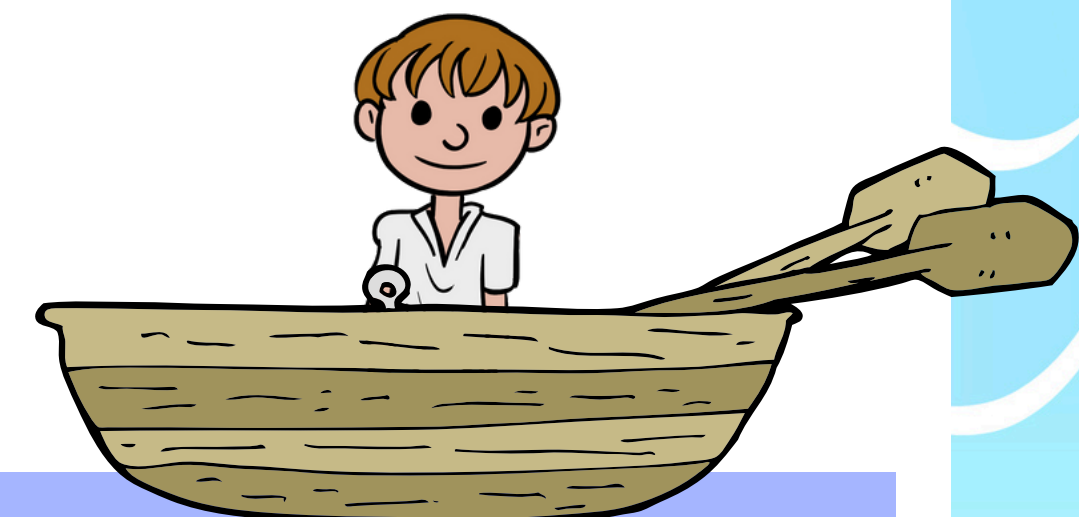
Musical Knowledge

The inter-related dimensions of structure, dynamics, texture, pitch and tempo are explored.

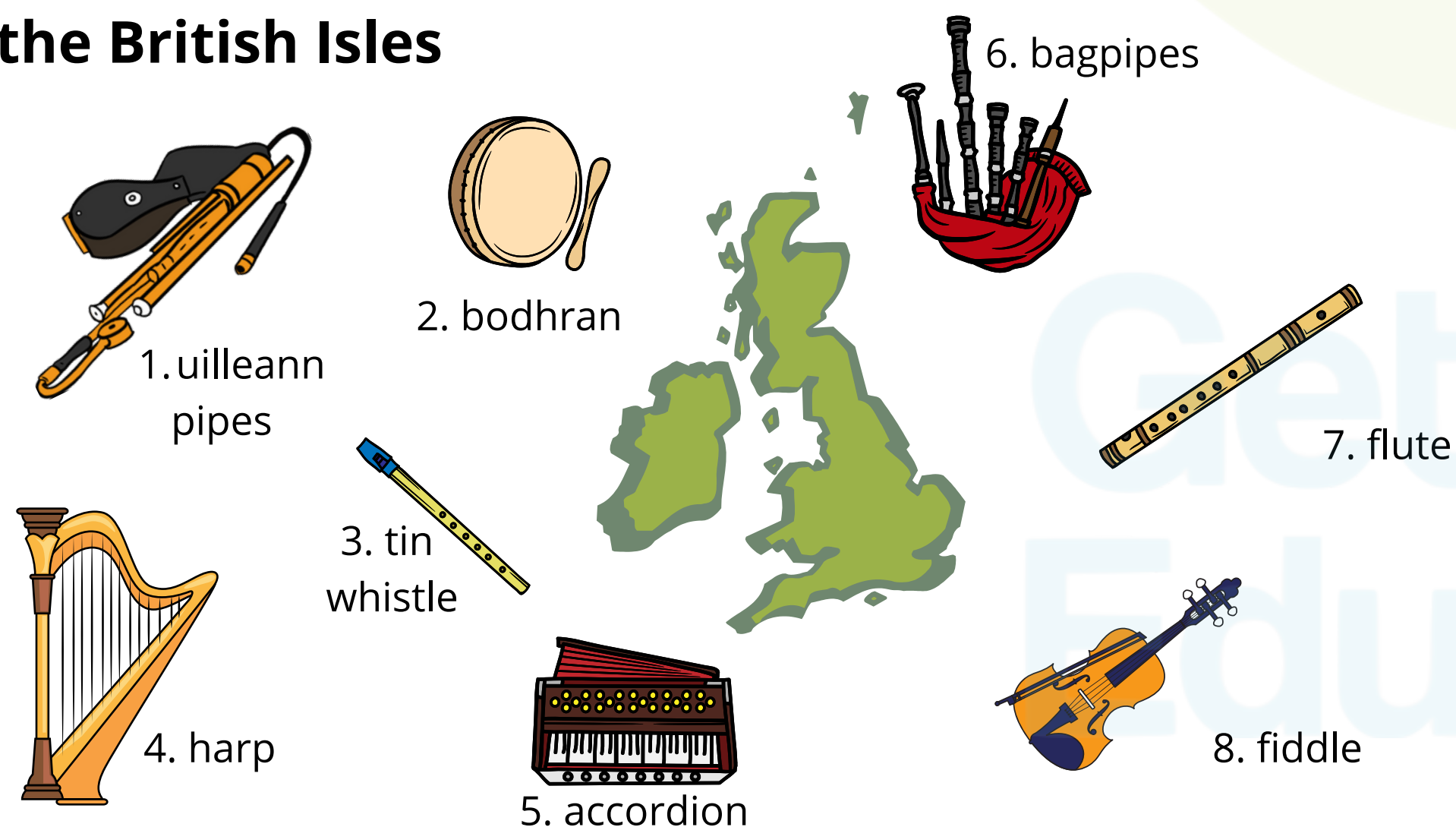


Key Features of Folk Music

- repetition of words
- lyrics about love, war, nature
- drone
- simple, repetitive rhythm and melody



Traditional Folk Instruments of the British Isles



Key Vocabulary

- drone:** a sustained sound, which could be a single note or a chord
- dynamics:** how loud or quiet a sound is
- fall:** getting lower in pitch
- folk:** traditional style of music reflecting the life of people in place or time
- improvise:** creating music on the spot
- notes:** a symbol used to write down a musical sound
- pitch:** how high or low a sound is
- pulse:** the heartbeat of the music
- rhythm:** patterns of sound consisting of shorter and longer notes
- rise:** getting higher in pitch
- round:** a song in which singers perform the same melody but at staggered starting points, producing an overlapping harmony
- sea shanty:** a song sung by sailors as they worked
- texture:** combining different layers of music to give an overall effect