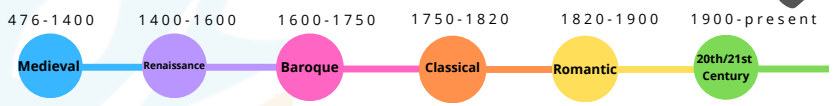
Knowledge Organiser: Volcanoes

Topic Background

A volcano is an opening in the Earth's surface. They are usually found in a mountain and have an opening that allows gas, hot magma and ash to escape from beneath the Earth's crust. When a volcano erupts it can be rather breathtaking with its beginnings of slow grumbles and gurgles which gradually build into powerful explosions of colour, movement and sound. These fascinating eruptions have inspired so many wonderful pieces of music full of emotion and story.

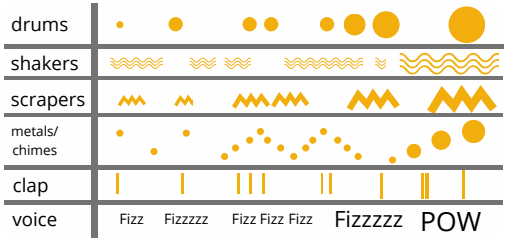
Listening Pieces

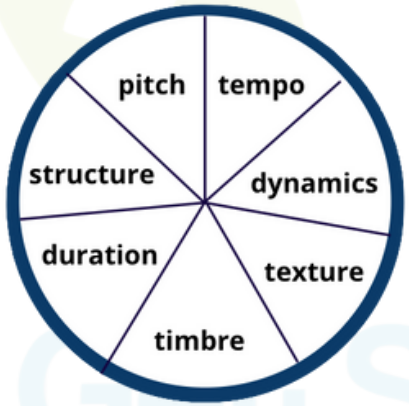
- Hekla, Jon Leifs, 1961
- Symphony No 50, Alan Hovhaness, 1982
- Mars, Holst, 1914

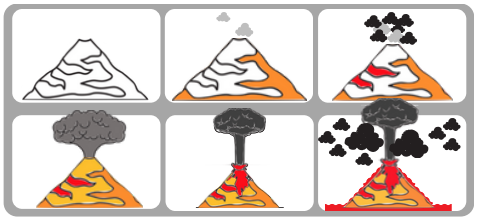


Musical Knowledge

graphic scores







< crescendo

decrescendo >

Key Vocabulary

compose: to write or create music
duration: how long or short a sound or silence is
dynamics: how loud or quiet a sound is
graphic score: images or a mark used to write music down that is not traditional music notation
inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure
rehearsal: to practise
structure: how a piece is organised
tempo: how fast or slow the music is
texture: combining different layers of music to give an overall effect
timbre: the unique sound of an instrument or piece of music

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