

## Music Summer 1-Year 4-Blackbird

In this unit of work children will learn and perform a song by The Beatles called Blackbird that is about Civil Rights. Children will also listen to and appraise 5 other songs by The Beatles and learn about the importance of the band to musical history.

### In this unit children will:

- Learn to sing and perform a song called Blackbird by the Beatles.
- Learn to play the melody of Blackbird on either glockenspiels or recorders.
- Develop their understanding about the importance of vocal warm ups and breathing exercises.
- Learn about the Civil Rights Movement in 1960's America and discuss the influence it had on the Beatles music.
- Listen to and appraise other songs by the Beatles including; Yellow Submarine, Hey Jude, Can't Buy Me, Yesterday and Let It Be.
- Learn about the 4 members of the Beatles John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr.
- Examine where the Beatles fit into the historical timeline of music.
- Learn about the pop style of music.
- Develop their knowledge of how to identify key instruments.
- Compose and improvise a simple melody using simple rhythms choosing from the notes C, D + E or C, D, E, G + A (the pentatonic scale).
- Record and evaluate their performances.

### Key Vocabulary

- **Acoustic guitar:** a musical instrument in the guitar family, that projects the sounds of its vibrating strings acoustically through the air.
- **Percussion:** a musical instrument that is sounded by being struck or scraped by a beater scraped or rubbed by hand.
- **Birdsong:** birds singing/tweeting usually produced by the male bird.
- **Civil rights:** 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.
- **Racism:** the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioural traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.
- **Equality:** the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.
- **Pentatonic scale:** A fixed five-note pattern e.g: the five black keys on a piano.
- **Texture structure:** Layers of sound working together make music very interesting to listen to.
- **Hook:** A term used in Pop music to describe a short catchy phrase or riff that we can't stop singing; the bit that 'hooks' us in; the main musical idea from a song that we remember.
- **Riff:** A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone.
- **Pop music :** A shortened form of 'Popular music'. Pop music constantly changes as we change and the world changes.
- **Unison:** Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.
- **Solo:** An Italian word to describe playing, singing or performing of one person or on our own.

### Previous Learning

**EYFS:** Develops preferences for forms of expression, creates movement in response to music, makes up rhythms, captures experiences and responses with music, represents thoughts and feelings of music. Children sing songs, make music and experiment with ways of changing them.

**Year 1:** Rhythm, rap, Bossa Nova Latin- pulse, rhythm, pitch, pulse, types of music- Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk, Latin and mixed styles, Western classical music, Listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music, recognise instruments and basic style indicators. Encourage discussions using musical language. Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.

**Year 2:** Hands, Feet, Heart is a song written for children to celebrate and learn about South African Music, Ho Ho Ho - a Christmas song, In The Groove- Blues, Latin, Folk, Funk, Baroque, Bhangra, Round And Round, Latin Bossa Nova, Film music, Big Band Jazz, Mash-up, Latin fusion, Reflect, Rewind and Replay Western Classical Music **Year 3:** Let Your Spirit Fly- R&B, Western Classical, Musicals, Motown, Soul, Glockenspiel Stage 1- Learning basic instrumental skills by playing tunes in varying styles, Three Little Birds-Reggae., Dragon Song- Folk Music, Bring Us Together-Disco Music, Western Classical Music.

**Year 4:** ABBA 70's/80's music, analysing performance, music from Sweden, the structure of songs, Glockenspiel Stage 2, Stop-Grime, Classical, Bhangra, Tango, Latin Fusion

### Key Questions

- Who were the Beatles and what type of music did they play?
- Which Beatle's song do you like the best and why?
- In the song Blackbird by the Beatles what does it discuss and why was it relevant to the period in history?

### Key Knowledge

- To know some key facts about the history of the Beatles, their music and who they were.
- To know how to discuss personal preferences in music by using musical vocabulary and expression e.g. hook, riff, melody, unison, solo etc.
- To know that the song Blackbird was written by Paul McCartney about a black woman, in support of the Black Power Movement.

