



This six week unit of work is based around one song – ‘Blackbird’ by The Beatles. The theme is equality and civil rights. 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 this unit we will:

1 – Listen & Appraise: ‘Blackbird’ – Pop

- Identify the instruments/ voices that can be heard - 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?
- Find the pulse as we listen

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

In this unit we will listen to 5 other ‘Beatles’ songs:

- ‘Blackbird’ by The Beatles
- ‘Yellow Submarine’ by The Beatles
- ‘Hey Jude’ by The Beatles
- ‘Can’t Buy Me Love’ by The Beatles
- ‘Yesterday’ by The Beatles
- ‘Let It Be’ by The Beatles

Inspiring Individuals



The Beatles



John Lennon



Paul McCartney



George Harrison



Ringo Starr



The Beatles

Vocabulary

Acoustic guitar, percussion, birdsong, civil rights, racism, equality, pentatonic scale, unison, pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, texture structure, compose, improvise, hook, riff, 3 – Perform & Share melody, solo

Possible Instruments

		
Recorder	Glockenspiel	Creative Apps