

Space

Year 2

Summer 2

Unit Overview

Lesson One – Time Travel

- The children begin the scheme with a song. This song explores how we can travel through time simply by looking at the Stars! Let the children hear the song in full. Ask them to look at the lyrics but also to focus on the Facts that appear on the screen. The children may need to see the song a couple of times.
- Ask the children to see if they can name one of the Planets or Star Clusters and tell the class how far away it is in light years. This means, when we are looking at the star or Planet we are seeing the light from it THAT many years ago. So, for example, when we look at Hyades we are seeing it's light from 1870! Because it takes the light from Hyades approximately 150 years to travel to us. That's the same time that Charles Dickens and Abraham Lincoln were alive!
- Let the children hear each section of the song and then try to learn it a step at a time. On the Be-Bop section it might be worth splitting the class into two groups. One group sings 'Be-Bop' the other groups sings 'Ah'.
- At the end we have a clever mashup of 3 parts. This will be something the children can attempt as they get further into the scheme and when they feel more confident with the song.
- To finish the lesson, maybe add some percussion instruments to the song. Hand out 6/10 percussion instruments and ask the children to improvise a rhythm to go with the song. When everyone has had a go, allow some children to come to the front of the class and play their chosen beat along with the song.

Lesson Two – The Planet Song

- Recap the work from the previous lesson on Time Travel. What Planets and Star Clusters did we look at? Can anyone remember how far away some of the stars and planets were.
- Let the children sing the song through.
- In this lesson we will learn a second song about space. This time it is a song to help the children remember the Planets in our Solar System. Again, this song contains lots of facts for the children to learn about the Planets. As you sing through each part and model the phrases, make sure the children are taking in the information. What are the interesting details of each Planet. How can we tell them apart? What is the order of the Planets from the sun. How can we remember? What is the musical difference between the Chorus and the Verse? The Choruses are sung and the verses are performed as a rap. They are spoken in rhythm with the music.
- Like last week, when the children feel confident with the song, allow them to play some instruments along with it.
- Pass the instruments around to 6/8 people at a time, allowing children to play various percussion instruments keeping in time.

Lesson Three – An Introduction to Holst – The Planets

- In this lesson the children will explore the composer Gustav Holst.
- Play the 'Intro Video'. This explains what the children are to do in today's lesson.
- Next, play the 'Holst – The Planets' video in it's entirety. Make sure the children pay full attention, as this video holds a great deal of information that is essential for completing their next task.

- When the children have finished watching the video, hand out the three work sheets adjacent to the video. The children have to cut out the descriptions and stick them next to the appropriate Planet.
- The answers are given in the 'Planets Description Answers' video further down the webpage.
- Allow children the opportunity to show their work and end the lesson with a discussion about music and its ability to tell the story of a Planet through instruments and emotion.

Lesson Four – Listening

- In this lesson the children will have to recall the previous work on Holst Planets and use it as part of a listening exercise.
- Remind the children of the pieces of music from last week. As they re-watch the Holst video, let them have their 'Planets Description' sheets in front of them. Play 'The Planets – Quiz' video. Print off and hand out the worksheets adjacent to the video on the webpage. The children have to listen to each track and work out which Planet they are listening to. They need to use their description answers from the last lesson to help them.
- When the children are positive with their answers, they can cut out the Planets and place them into the correct Blank Track box.
- When the work is complete the children can see the answers on 'The Planet Quiz Answers' video.

Lesson Five – Planet Compositions

- In this lesson the children will use the information and understanding of the Planets and plan a composition for the final week.
- For this 'Composition Planning' lesson, allow children time to do the following:
 - Pick a Planet.
 - Write down moods, emotions, colours, descriptions for the Planet of their choice
 - Write down Musical Elements for the Planet of their choice. Eg. Tempo – Fast or Slow. Pitch – High or Low. Dynamics – Loud or Soft. These elements could be a mixture of course. Soft to Loud or High to Low, for example.
 - Choose instruments from the schools repertoire. This will mostly be percussion.
 - This planning stage is really important and allows the children to really explore what they have learned over the past few lessons. What do they know about the Planets? How can they bring the Planet to life with music? How do instruments and musical elements help in creating the sound of a Planet?
 - As the children are planning, allow them to hear the two songs and the 'Holst' selection, to help inspire them.

Lesson Six – Playing the Planet Compositions

- To finish the scheme the children rehearse and play their Planet Compositions for the rest of the class.
- Each child picks 5/6 children to play their piece. As they play, the composer should conduct the group using hand gestures. A Conductor tutorial is on the webpage.
- Show the chosen Planet on the screen to help bring the music to life.