



Lesson Activity Sheet

School:

Date: Spring term 2015

Class size: 24-30 year group:

Application used: Garage Band

Resources: 15 ipad minis, Bluetooth speaker

Topic: Music & Composition

Overview:

Listening to and discussing 'The Planets' by Holst. Talking about the personalities of the 3 Greek Gods in question and identifying musical techniques used by the composer. Students start their own compositions in pairs based on Mars, Venus or Jupiter.

Week 1

Learning Objective/s:

1. To be aware of The Planets and be able to say who the composer was.
2. To be able to list the 3 Gods that the music was based on and describe their personalities.
3. To begin to be able to describe a piece of music using suitable vocabulary

Learning Outcome:

Each child will have made a start on their 'Greek God' Garageband compositions and saved it on an iPad ready to continue next week

LESSON OUTLINE

Starter input/listening activity (10 mins)

Using the bluetooth speaker, play 'Mars' to the class. Ask the class to describe the music in any way they can and the teacher should try to pick up on certain keywords to put on the board e.g. War, angry, loud, aggressive etc.

The teacher can then point out that it is interesting that the class should offer those words of description because:

1. The composer Gustav Holst, composed The Planets based on the personalities of 3 Greek Gods that were named after Mars, Venus and Jupiter EACH WITH THEIR OWN PERSONALITIES and the one they have just listened to was Mars the bringer of war. (Angry, serious, aggressive, military, fighter). So the key words fit in quite nicely.

Input/Activity (10 mins)

Teacher to describe the personalities of the other two Gods i.e. Venus the god of love and bringer of peace, very feminine calm and serene. Jupiter who is very Jolly and fun.

Play 'Venus' to the class without telling them which God it is and ask them to guess if it is Venus or Jupiter.

Ask them to describe WHY they thought what they did.

Now the teacher can play Jupiter and ask the children for their thoughts

Input (5 mins)

Hand out the iPads and give a quick recap on recording tracks using Garageband

Activity (Garageband compositions based on one of the 3 Gods/Planets) 30 mins

In pairs, start composing a piece of music based on one of the 3 Gods. Point out to the children that if they have chosen Mars, they may want to start with a strong rhythm and if they have chosen Venus, they are more likely to start a gentle melody on the piano.

Plenary/Reinforcement (5 mins at the end)

Class discussion and review of the learning objectives e.g. can they tell you who composed the planets, what sort of words have been used today to describe music, what 3 Gods have we been studying and what were their personalities.

Note:* when asking questions of the class, it is often better to get each child to write down their own answer on a mini whiteboard and hold it up. This is a more effective way to gauge the success of the learning than asking a question that ultimately only one child answers!..maybe the rest of the class couldn't!

If mini whiteboards aren't available, then it might be worth using a simple app to turn the iPads into a mini whiteboard that they could hold up.