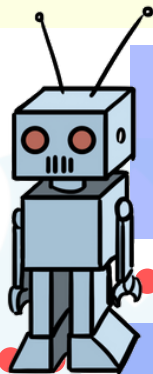


Knowledge Organiser: Toys

Topic Background

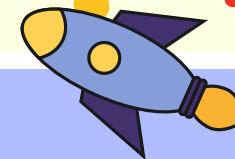
Toys have existed for thousands of years and have been made out of materials that were available at the time. 100 years ago most toys were made out of wood, metal or paper. Children played with toys like spinning tops, dolls, model horses with wheels, hoops and rocking horses. Nowadays, toys are often made out of plastic and a lot are battery powered.

Before batteries were invented, many toys that moved had windup power and clockwork devices. This means that you had to turn a key or handle to make a toy move. The music box is a good example of a wind up toy. It was created by watchmakers and uses a lot of the same mechanisms as inside a clock. The sound in a music box is made by turning a handle which turns a cylinder inside to strike different pitches on a steel comb creating beautiful melodies.



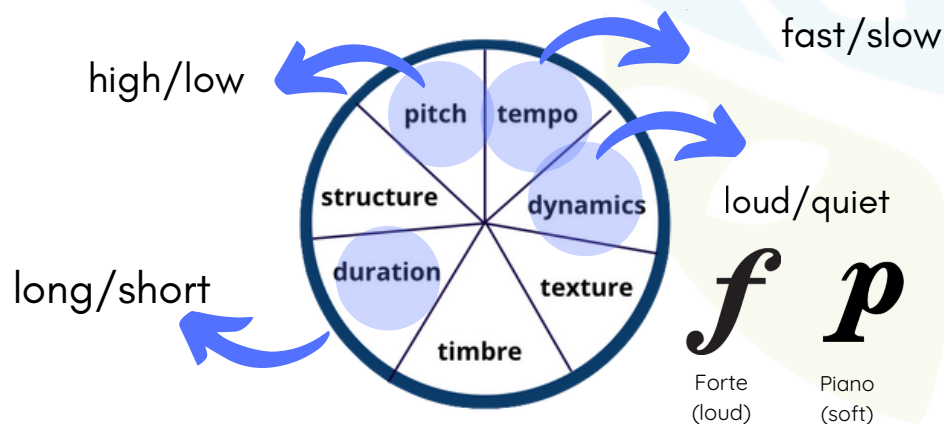
Listening Pieces

- The Nutcracker Suite, Tchaikovsky, 1892
- March of the Toys, Victor Herbert, 1903
- Toy Symphony, Malcolm Arnold, 1957
- Boogie Woogie Stomp, Albert Ammons, 1939



Musical Knowledge

The inter-related dimensions of timbre, dynamics, pitch and tempo are explored.



Key Vocabulary

dynamics: how loud or quiet a sound is

improvise: to make up on the spot

melody: the tune of the music, made up of high and low pitches

notation: a way of writing down music so that anyone can play it

pitch: how high or low a sound is

pulse: the heartbeat of the music

rhythm: patterns of sound consisting of shorter and longer notes

tempo: how fast or slow the music is

unison: playing or singing together

Graphic scores; symbols to indicate the pitch of the notes.

