

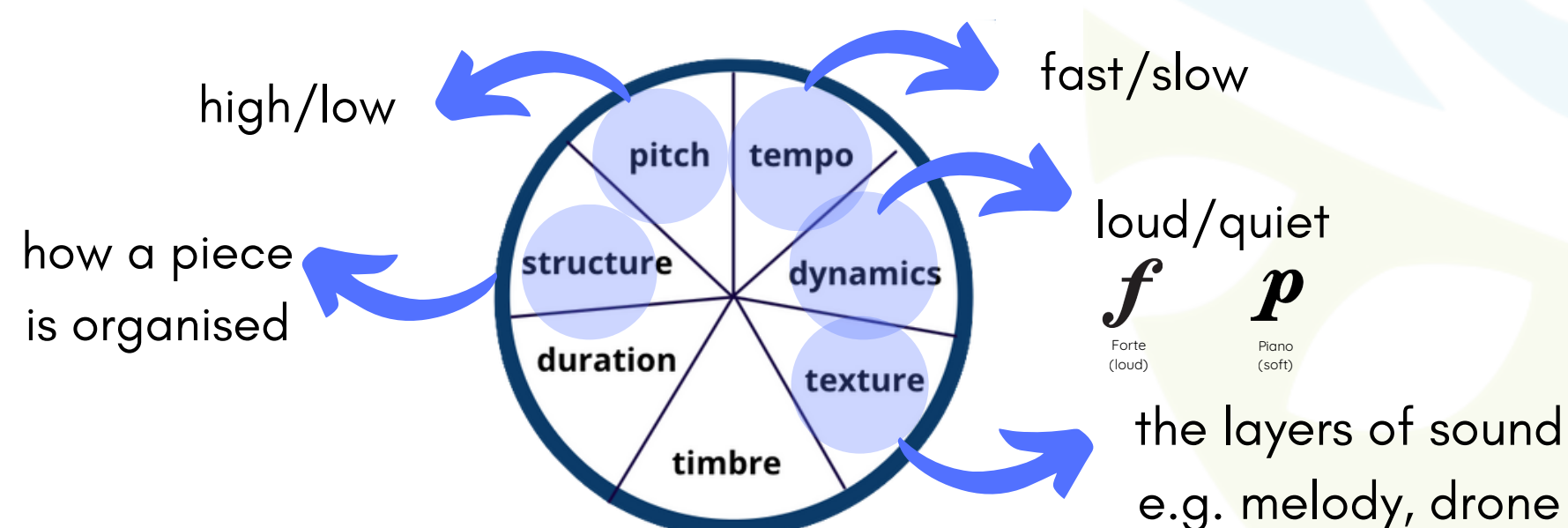
Knowledge Organiser: Folksongs

Topic Background

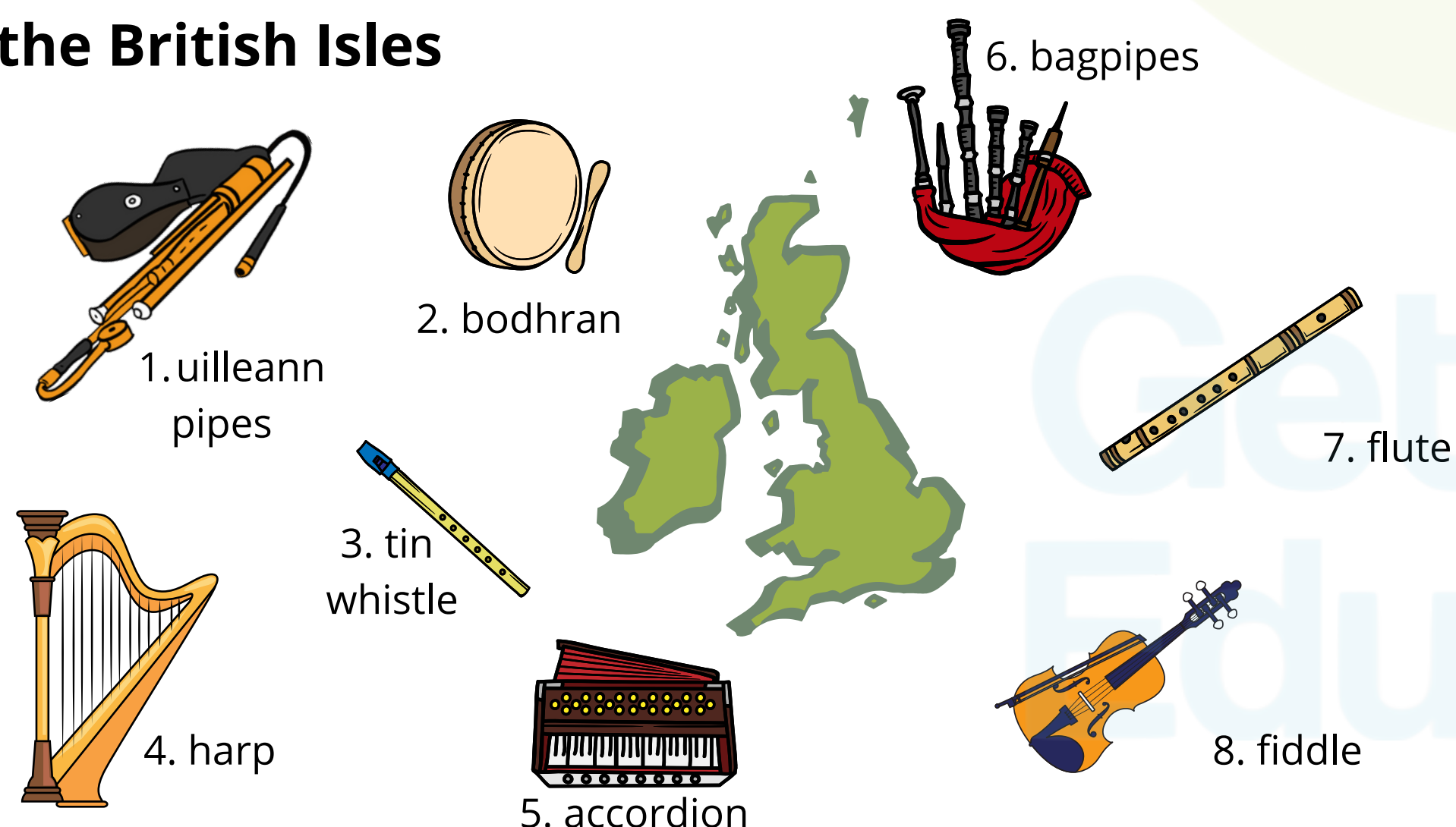
Folk music is popular all over the world and is used for social events such as weddings, parties, gatherings and also as part of work songs such as sea shanties. Each country's music will have distinct features or characteristics such as the themes, instruments, tempo, types of dance etc. Folk music means 'music of the folk', the people. Folk music often tells stories about love, war or nature. People would learn folk songs aurally (by ear) within their families and communities and pass them down generation by generation. Songs would change over time as each time people repeated a song it might be sung differently and people might hear it differently.

Musical Knowledge

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



Traditional Folk Instruments of the British Isles



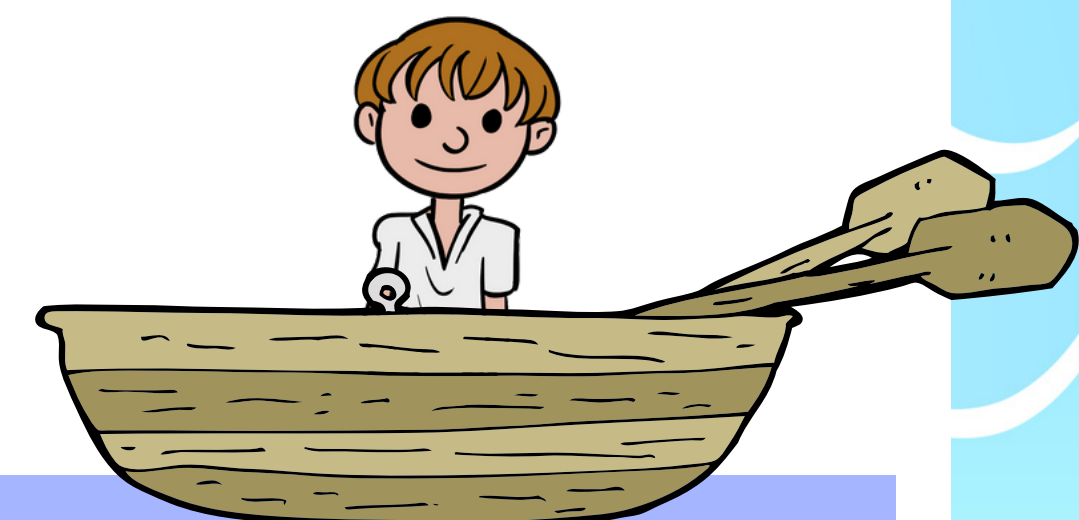
Listening Pieces

- Wellerman, Nathan Evans, 2021
- Hornpipe, Sir Henry Wood
- Dance to your Daddy, *Trad.*
- Off She Goes Jig, *Trad.*
- Round and Round, *Trad.*
- My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean, *Trad.*



Key Features of Folk Music

- repetition of words
- lyrics about love, war, nature
- drone
- simple, repetitive rhythm and melody



Key Vocabulary

drone: a sustained sound, which could be a single note or a chord

dynamics: how loud or quiet a sound is

fall: getting lower in pitch

folk: traditional style of music reflecting the life of people in place or time

improvise: creating music on the spot

notes: a symbol used to write down a musical sound

pitch: how high or low a sound is

pulse: the heartbeat of the music

rhythm: patterns of sound consisting of shorter and longer notes

rise: getting higher in pitch

round: a song in which singers perform the same melody but at staggered starting points, producing an overlapping harmony

sea shanty: a song sung by sailors as they worked

texture: combining different layers of music to give an overall effect