

Knowledge Organiser: Planets

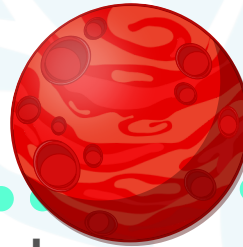


Topic Background

The term 'planet' originates from the Greek word for 'wanderer'. In ancient Greek times, they believed that as they travelled through the solar system, the planets hummed with their own music, a spiritual sound that was inaudible to the human ear. The planets were thought to be deities. Our names for the planets are the Roman names for these deities.

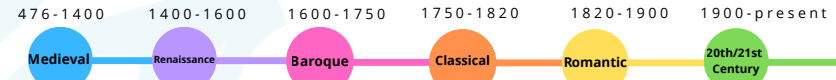
- Mercury: The Winged Messenger
- Venus: The Bringer of Peace
- Earth: The Bringer of Life
- Mars: The Bringer of War
- Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity
- Saturn: The Bringer of Old Age
- Uranus: The Magician
- Neptune: The Mystic

The planets have inspired so many pieces of music with their exciting characteristics. One of the most famous musical works being 'The Planet Suites' by Gustav Holst.

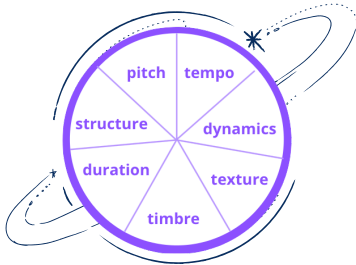


Listening Pieces

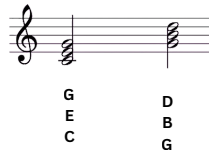
- The Planet Suites, Gustav Holst, 1914 - 1916
- The Imperial March, John Williams, 1980
- In the Beginning, Mike Oldfield, 1994



Musical Knowledge



These 3 note triads are major chords.



These 3 note triads are minor chords.



Key Vocabulary

- accompaniment:** a musical part which supports a melody
- chords:** two or more notes played at the same time
- graphic score:** images or a mark used to write music down that is not traditional music notation
- inter-related dimensions:** pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure
- legato:** smooth and connected notes in duration
- major:** a scale that sounds bright and cheerful
- minor:** a scale that sounds sad
- motif:** a short musical idea that is repeated often
- programmatic:** music that is descriptive
- staccato:** short and separated notes in duration
- structure:** how a piece is organised
- ternary form:** a three part musical form consisting of an opening section, a following section and then a repetition of the first section (ABA)
- time signature:** tells us how many beats are in each bar and which note value is to be given one beat
- triads:** a three-note chord, often built from the root note (the lowest pitched note of the chord)



C D E F G A B C D E F G A



1 beat note <i>short</i>	two 1/2 beat notes <i>shorter</i>	2 beat note <i>lo-ng</i>	4 beat note <i>lo-o-o-ng</i>	1 beat rest <i>sshhh</i>
crotchet	paired quavers	minim	semibreve	crotchet rest