



# Knowledge Organiser: Animal Kingdom

## Topic Background

Composers during the Romantic period became far more expressive in their music, writing music to describe emotions, stories, landscapes, characters and animals. French composer Saint-Saëns composed a collection of 14 pieces which all describe different animals. The whole collection of pieces or movements is called 'Carnival of the Animals'. Saint-Saëns thought it was a silly piece and did not want the music performed to the public until after his death. He was not to know that after his death, this composition would become hugely popular and well loved by audiences.

During the 20th century, composers became far bolder with their use of harmonies. Rather than obeying the rules of music theory, composers were free to use whichever harmonies they wanted, to create the mood they intended, composers such as John Williams used harmonies to create many famous pieces of music for films. His movie music includes 'Star Wars', 'ET', 'Home Alone', 'Indiana Jones', 'Superman' and 'Jurassic Park'.

## Listening Pieces

- Carnival of the Animals, Saint-Saëns, 1886: No.4. Tortoises, No.5 The Elephant, No.7 The Aquarium, No.9 The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods No.13 The Swan
- Jaws: Title Theme, John Williams 1975
- The Wasps, Vaughan Williams, 1909



## Musical Knowledge

C D E F G A B C  
do re mi fa so la ti do  
**C major scale**

Face in the space!  
F A C E

elephants get big dirty feet  
E G B D F

## Key Vocabulary

- broken chords:** where the notes of the chord are separated and played in a sequence
- chord:** a group of (typically three or more) notes sounded together to create harmony
- consonant:** combinations of pitches that create pleasing sounds
- dissonant:** combinations of pitches that create harsh sounds
- dotted note:** a note with a dot after it increases that note's value by half
- dynamics:** how loud or quiet a sound is
- harmony:** the sound of two or more notes that are pleasing to listen to
- interval:** the distance between two pitches
- major:** a scale that sounds bright and cheerful
- melody:** the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches
- minor:** a scale that sounds sad
- octave:** a series of 8 notes in a musical scale
- root note:** the first note in a chord
- structure:** how a piece is organised
- tempo:** how fast or slow the music is
- triad:** a three-note chord often built from the root note (the lowest in note in pitch of the chord)

## Intervals

2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th  
dissonant consonant consonant consonant consonant dissonant octave

## C major chords



- C major: CEG
- F major: FAC
- G major: GBD

## D minor chords



- A minor: ACE
- D minor: DFA
- G major: GBD

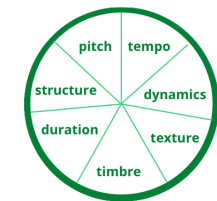
1 beat crotchet two 1/2 beats paired quavers

2 beat minim 4 beat semibreve

A dot after a note increases that note's value by half.

## Dynamics

- p* quiet **piano**
- f* loud **forte**
- mp* moderately quiet **mezzo piano**
- mf* moderately loud **mezzo forte**
- pp* very quiet **pianissimo**
- ff* very loud **fortissimo**



## Tempo

- largo: very slow
- moderato: moderate tempo
- allegro: fast
- presto: very fast