

Knowledge Organiser: Words, Words, Words

Topic Background

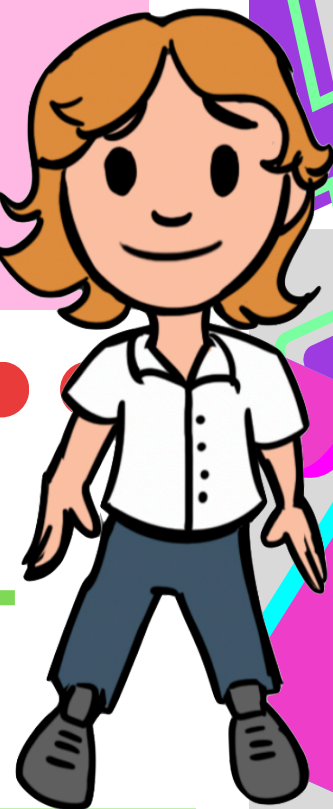
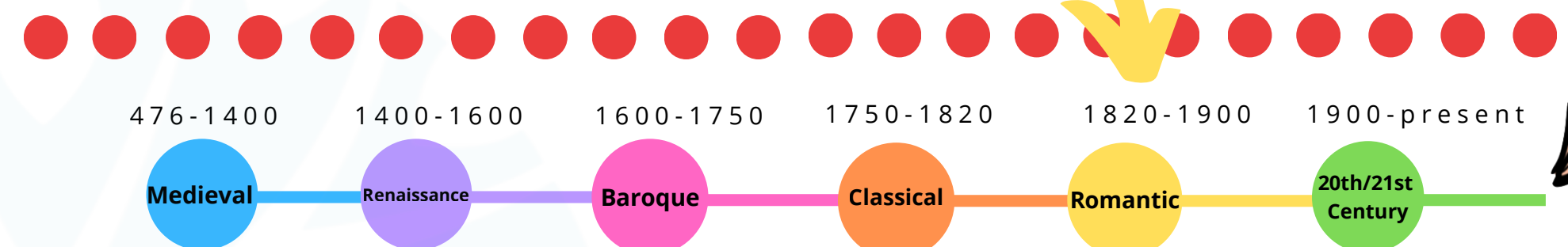
Language expresses needs, wants, feelings, emotions, beliefs and opinions, tells stories for entertainment and even preserves our history. Our language is full of words which help us to describe the world around us through verbs, nouns, adjectives, metaphors and onomatopoeia. Just like spoken or written language, music describes the world around us and the way we live in it.

The language of music is very powerful, often where words fail, music has an expressive depth that can reach beyond spoken words.

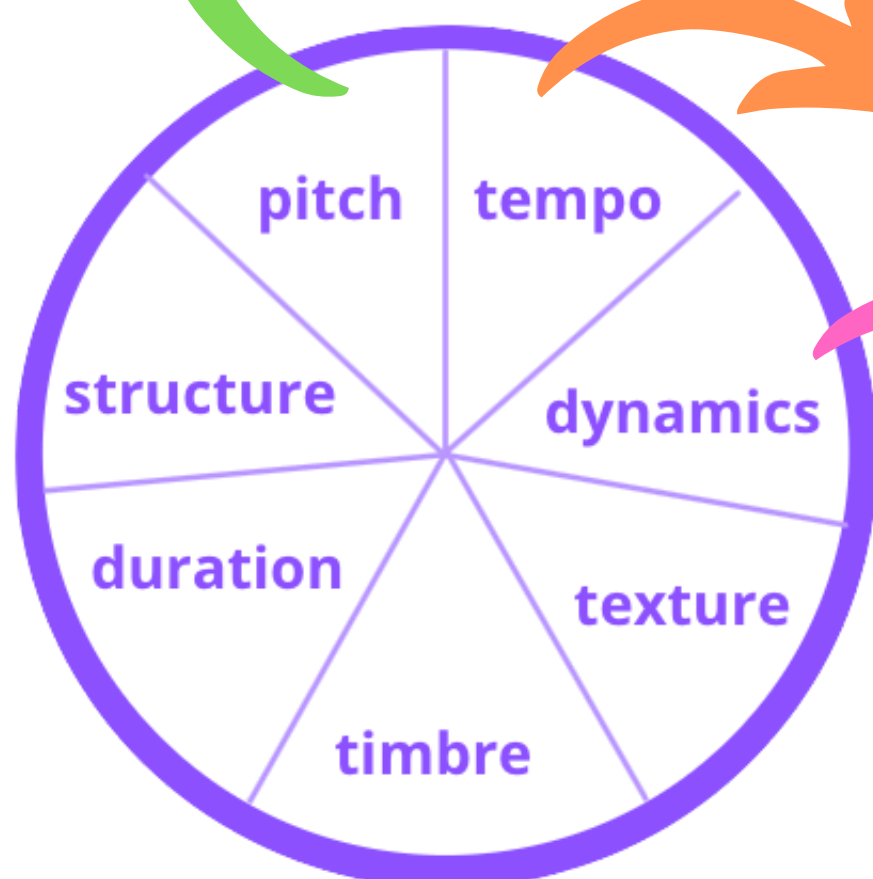
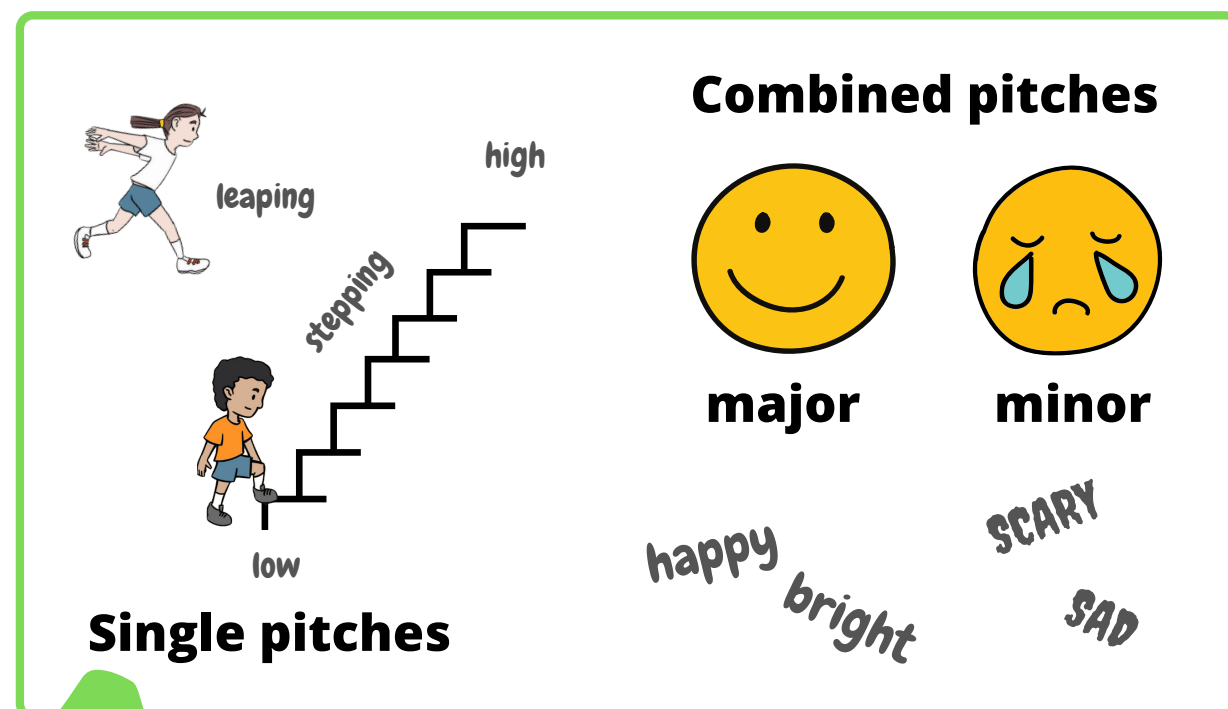
Music is often called a universal language. You may not be able to speak the same language as the composer who has written the music but you can interpret the language of a piece of music composed by that composer. Music notation is universal, a French, Dutch, Russian or British musician can all perform together without the music needing to be translated into a different language.

Listening Pieces

- Carnival of the Animals, The Elephant, Saint Saens, 1886
- Sorcerer's Apprentice, Dukas, 1897



Musical Knowledge



Key Vocabulary

accelerando: gradually getting faster

fortissimo: very loud

graphic notation: a graphic that can signify a particular musical action

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

major: happy or bright sound

mezzo forte: moderately loud

mezzo piano: moderately quiet

minor: sad, mysterious or scary sound

moderato: moderate tempo

pianissimo: very quiet

rallentando: gradually getting slower

romantic: an era in the history of music from 1820-1900, music describes places, emotions or tells stories