

CREATIVITY & COMPOSITION

COMPOSING with the Elements of Music

L.I. - To be able to manipulate sounds to compose and perform a piece which incorporates one or more of the Elements of Music.

30 min

♪ The 'Elements of Music' are particularly useful as stimuli for composition-based activities. These can start very simply with an exercise such as: 'Make up a composition using fast and slow sounds'. As the children become more adept at handling the instruments, you can gradually start to expand the parameters by including pitched percussion and introducing animal rhythms and notation. Here are some examples below, but do use your imagination and ask the children – they will no doubt come up with ideas that you hadn't even thought of!

Tempo: In pairs, have a drum conversation with both fast and slow playing. (Do encourage the children not to 'interrupt' each other).

Rhythm: Make up a composition using two of your favourite animal rhythms.

Timbre: Using a selection of percussion instruments, can you make up a composition based on an emotion or feeling such as, joy, anger, fear, celebration?

Dynamics: Using an animal rhythm of your choice, make up a composition using the full range of dynamics from very soft to very loud.

Pitch: Take three chimebars and using two animal rhythms, make up your own composition based on a particular topic, for example, 'minibeasts' or 'space'.

RESOURCES

- ♪ A selection of classroom percussion, both pitched and unpitched.
- ♪ Any relevant flashcards or notation cards.

TEACHER'S NOTES / Date

♪ Mixed ability groups will work best in this lesson as the children will have different strengths to share with their peers.

Assessment / Extension / Links

- ♪ Assessment of this exercise will be based on the child's handling of the instruments and how they respond to the stimulus.
- ♪ You may find that your most able children take a leading role in directing their group.