

LKS2 Music Knowledge Organiser: Blackbird

Key Enquiry Question: Explore the song Blackbird by The Beatles, a song about civil rights

National Curriculum Objectives:

- ★ play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- ★ listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- ★ appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- ★ an understanding of the history of music



Key vocabulary

Word	Meaning
melody	Another name for a tune.
pulse	The heartbeat or steady beat of a song/piece of music.
rhythm	The combination of long and short sounds to make patterns.
pitch	The range of high and low sounds.
tempo	An Italian word used to describe how fast/slow the music goes.
dynamics	How loud or quiet the music is.
texture	Layers of sound in music.
structure	How the sections (verses and choruses etc.) of a song are ordered to make the whole piece.
hook	A term used in pop music to describe a short catchy phrase or riff that we can't stop singing; the bit that 'hooks' us in; the main musical idea from a song that we remember.
riff	A short repeated phrase, often played on a lead instrument such as guitar, piano or saxophone
solo	An Italian word used to describe playing/singing/performing on our own
Acoustic guitar	A guitar that does not require electrical amplification, having a hollow body that amplifies the string vibrations.
percussion	musical instruments played by striking with the hand or with a stick or beater, or by shaking, including drums, cymbals, xylophones, gongs, bells, and rattles.
birdsong	the musical vocalizations of a bird or birds, typically uttered by a male songbird in characteristic bursts or phrases for territorial purposes.
civil rights	the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality.
racism	when people think that one color or race is better than another, and they treat or mistreat people based on that belief
compose	Creating and developing musical ideas.
composition	Making up your own music is called composition.
unison	Everyone plays or sings the same music at the same time.
equality	recognising and responding fairly to the individual needs and identities of all others
pentatonic scale	A fixed five-note pattern e.g. the five black keys on a piano

Sticky Knowledge:

- ★ The Beatles helped to reshape Western Pop music in the 1960s and are one of the most successful bands ever.
- ★ The Beatles had four members: John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr.
- ★ In the 1950s and 1960s, slavery had been abolished in America, but racism was still rife and life wasn't equal for African Americans.
- ★ The civil rights movement, led by Martin Luther King Jr., challenged this. There was a huge struggle for equality. Lots of dreadful things were going on and people were dying. After reading about this, Paul wrote the song Blackbird about a black woman, in support of the Black Power Movement.

Reflection Questions:

- ★ What did you like best about this Unit? Why?
- ★ Was there anything you didn't enjoy about it? Why?
- ★ Do you have any strong thoughts or feelings you would to share about it?