

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 |
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| 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.