Playlist

These activities are for you to do at home with an adult. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

Activities

1. Research the following terms and write a definition for each, to create a musical glossary.

beat | brass | chorus | composition | decibel | melody | percussion | pitch | rhythm | score | strings | tempo | timbre | verse | volume | woodwind

2. Find out about the different parts of an orchestra using the Instruments of the orchestra – Classics for Kids website. Create an information poster or table about orchestras, including the names of different instruments, the families that they belong to and any other interesting facts.

3. Watch choir performances online, including the Royal Choral Society, Harlem Gospel Choir, Sing City Rock Choir and an a capella group, such as VoicePlay. How are these choirs different? Find out and record the different singing parts in a choir.

4. Research how to beatbox – there are some good videos on YouTube. Can you choose a sound as inspiration for a beatbox masterpiece? Consider these sounds: zipping up a coat, washing the dishes, pouring water out of a bottle, knocking on a door or a vibrating mobile phone. Demonstrate your beatboxing to your family or friends.

5. Research a musical genre. Choose from either jazz, rock, classical, blues, pop, folk, country or world music. Find out when the genre began, which countries are famous for this genre, which instruments are used, and which famous musicians perform music of this genre.

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6. Download an app that allows you to measure volume in decibels. Investigate which rooms, times of day, machines and people are the loudest and quietest in your house and record your results.

7. Find out about sound and how the human ear works using a range of sources. After researching, write a paragraph and draw a diagram to explain how sounds are made and heard. Try to use some of the following words: air, cochlea, ear, ear canal, eardrum, ossicles, outer ear, pinna, soundwave, travel, vibrate and vibration.

8. Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about sound, genres of music, musical terminology and instruments.

Useful websites

Classics For Kids – Instruments of the Orchestra

CBBC Newsround – Learn how to beatbox

DKfindout! – Music Genres For Kids – Types of Music Genres

DKfindout! – What is Sound – Sound Waves For Kids

DKfindout! – How Do We Hear – How The Ear Works

BBC Bitesize – Sound and vibration – KS2 Science

Good reads

Title	Author	ISBN
Music and How it Works	DK	9780241411605
Making Noise! Making Sounds (Exploring Sound)	Louise Spilsbury	9781406274523
Experiments with Sound – Read and Experiment	Isabel Thomas	9781406290301
My First Classical Music Book	Genevieve Helsby	9781843791188
The Orchestra	Richard Spilsbury	9781474749329
Why Beethoven Threw the Stew: And Lots More Stories About the Lives of Great Composers	Steven Isserlis	9780571206162

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