

the outdoor classroom

the river crane music

Curriculum focus:

Music
PE

Keywords:

Rivers
Dance
Mime

Skills learnt in this worksheet include:

Listening, imagination
Interpretation
Rhythm
Group work / individual work
Learning technical language related to rivers
Using musical themes to define a topic
Musical composition

On return to school listen to the following music:

The Moldau from Ma Vlast by Bedrich Smetana
Toscanini conducts Smetana Ma Vlast: No 2. Vlatava (Moldau)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=49WNphaiwNY

This piece describes the course of the river Moldau from source to sea, with a repeated sinuous musical theme for the river interspersed with other music to describe various scenes that the river goes past, including a hunt and a wedding with country dances.

The composition could be used to inspire dance or mime which portrays scenes from the Crane as it flows towards the Thames.

This can be used as the stimulus for other composition activities:

- Divide the children into groups and ask them to create some music describing the River Crane, perhaps including a simple repeated melody of a few notes.
- They should then choose two or three scenes that the river flows past, such as the adventure playground, the shot tower, walkers and cyclists, busy roads and the woodland area, and create further music describing each scene.
- Groups can then perform their music to each other, starting with their river theme and repeating this after each scene they have chosen to portray.
- Use the Smetana to develop a mime or dance to show scenes from the River Crane.
- Performances can be recorded and assessed by the children.