



Marvellous Maya

How was music used in Maya civilisation?

Lesson 1—How do we know music was used in the Maya civilisation?



Music was important in ancient Maya life. A variety of instruments, including small and large drums made of wood, hides and turtle shells were used. Archaeologists have excavated musical instruments and painted and carved depictions of the ancient Maya music.



Lesson 2 —How was Maya music structured?

Music was built up through the order of the instruments, the dynamics and tempo and the texture of the music to develop the sound being made

Lesson 4—What rhythms could I use with my melody?

Create rhythms using topic vocabulary and untuned percussion instruments and combine them to create a melody (a sequence of single notes).



Applying Past Knowledge

This learning links to Year 3 & 4:

Appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions

Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.



Lesson 3—How can I create a melody for a Maya piece?



Using the notes FACE & EGBDF in different combinations to create a melody using rhythm and long/short notes including rests.

Key Vocabulary

Dynamics:

Forte—how loud or strong

Piano— how quiet a sound is.

Diminuendo—getting quieter

Crescendo—getting louder

Tempo: the speed of the beat.

Largo: slow speed

Adante: steady speed

Presto: quick speed

Lesson 5 — Can I compose a piece of music in the style of the Mayans?

Combine melody (a sequence of single notes) and rhythm (a strong, regular repeated pattern of sound) to create music inspired by the Mayans.

