

Year 6
Autumn 1
Music

Canadian Soundscapes

To tie in with our Geography topic about Canada, we will experiment with a wide variety of musical instruments to mimic sounds one might find in the vast Canadian wilderness and learn the traditional Canadian folk song, Land of the Silver Birch.

Background information

- *“Land of the Silver Birch” is a traditional Canadian folk song from the 1920s. It was sung to help keep time when paddling your canoe and now can often be heard around a campfire during Girl Guide and Scout camps.*
- *Land of the Silver Birch is closely related to another paddling song, “My Paddles Keen and Bright” and is often intermingled.*

Knowledge and Understanding

In this unit pupils will learn...

- How to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts using their voices and musical instruments
- How to improvise and compose music to mimic the soundscape of the Canadian wilderness
- How to read simple musical notation in order to play Land of the Silver Birch on the recorder

Musical skills and Key concepts

- will work cooperatively to plan and perform a “Canadian Wilderness” soundscape.
- will experiment with musical instruments to re-create sounds of nature
- will experiment with rhythm and sound to create a soundscape to be performed in a round
- will learn to read music and play Land of the Silver Birch on the recorder.

Key Vocabulary:

Acoustic: relating to sound or creating music without electric amplification.

Instrumentation: what instruments you are using and how you are playing them

Melody: a sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying

Rhythm: a strong regular repeated pattern of movement or sound

Round: a part song or instrumental piece which starts off with a single voice or instrument on the tune, followed at intervals by the other voices which enter individually and perform the exact same melody.

Soundscape: an audio recording or performance of sounds that create the sensation of experiencing a certain acoustic environment