



Year 4

Remote Learning

Additional music lesson

Spring has definitely sprung, and to celebrate this, we're going to move on to a music unit that we would have loved to do with you in school. It is called **Meadowsong**. Of course, it's not the same as doing it together, but we have adapted some of the activities for you to hopefully enjoy at home! You might remember these songs from Year 3!



We are going to be learning a song about **meadows** and some of the wild flowers that you might find there. Above are a couple of pictures of some English meadows.

Meadows – listening, imagining and acting activity

Have you ever walked through a meadow? What was it like?

Don't worry if you haven't been to a meadow before (we're Londoners – it's not easy to visit meadows!). Here is a video of a meadow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uz9uyQl3pFO>

As you watch and listen to the clip, imagine what it would be like to walk around a meadow like this one on a warm spring/ summer day. You could even close your eyes and walk slowly and carefully around the room, imaging that you are in a beautiful meadow. *Do any adjectives come to mind?*

Next, we are going to think about some of the creatures and wildlife that we might encounter in a meadow.



Can you make a freeze frame/a kind of a sculpture with your body to show these creatures?

Earthworm



Butterfly



Blackbird



Meadow grasshopper

Warming up our voices activity

Use your voices in a creative way to make sounds to represent:

- a sunny morning
- a chilly wind
- stepping under a really hot shower

Can you think of any of your own?

Wild flowers activity (preparing for a new song!)

Please see the wild flower pictures on the separate document: *Music - Wild Flowers.*

These are some of the wild flowers that you may see in a British meadow. Many wild flowers can also be seen growing in other natural spaces, even in urban areas, such as parks, the Parkland Walk or Highgate Woods. Look out for them when you are out on your daily walks/ bike rides!

- **Sing the name of each flower in the picture.** If you are doing this with somebody at home, take turns to sing one of the flower names, and then the other person sings it back to you (like an echo).

- **Next, create a gesture to represent each flower.** This isn't a freeze frame this time, you can move and have different elements to your gesture.

You might be inspired by the name of the flower or how it looks. Say the name of the flower as you act it out.

Let's learn a new song!

Riddle Song composed by Kate Stilitz, part of a group of works called Meadowsong.

This is a song about our wild meadow flowers!

- Listen to the song (vocal track). *Which flower names can you hear?*
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfMIFHa5HhXVITQQOy984bJ9_L3hYhNhu
- This time, listen with your eyes closed.
- Now try singing the first *chorus* (see *Meadowsong- Riddle Song Lyrics*). Practise singing this part with the vocal track.
- Now the *first verse* and the *chorus* together.
- Next, practise *verse 2* and *chorus 2*.
- Now you are ready to practise singing the whole song!
- There are some sections for a 'group A' and a 'group B', this is because if we were doing it at school, we would have sung this part as half the class doing each group. Don't worry about that though – you could just rest your voice for this bit, ready to join in with the final part of the song. Or choose either the group A or group B part to join in with.

Keep practising Riddle Song over the next couple of weeks. See if you can learn it off by heart. We'd love to hear you singing this!

Extra activity

Create a picture to represent Riddle Song.

You can approach this however you choose. For example, you could draw or collage how the song makes you feel, or draw the images that come to mind when you sing or listen to the song, or create a drawing about you singing the song, or perhaps you might like to design a title cover for this song (as if it was a single to buy). Whatever you wish – it just needs to be about Riddle Song in some way!

Activity two

Birdsong

Have you noticed that you can hear more birds lately?

This may be due to spending more time in a quieter environment (unlike school!), it may be due to there being less road noise at the moment (a positive thing about lockdown), it may also be due to lower levels of air pollution (another positive from lockdown), and it is also due to the time of year. We are thoroughly into the month of May now, and in early May you may have heard something known as *the dawn chorus*. This is the collective birdsong sung by the birds around us in the early morning as the sun is rising (dawn).

Developing your listening skills is an important part of Music. Some people are able to recognise birds by their songs. Do you think you can recognise any particular birds by listening to their song? I've always thought seagull's have quite a distinctive recognisable sound! Would you recognise one if you heard it?

Watch this video about birdsong <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zryncw>

I am pretty sure I have heard woodpigeons (as wildlife expert Bill Oddie pointed out in the video) making their "my toe is bleeding" song! I also think I often hear (but didn't realise it before now) the collared dove's "I don't know...I don't; I don't know...I don't" song!

- Watch the video again, and this time pause it after each birdsong that Bill Oddie and Gary discuss. Try to copy this birdsong yourself! How well can you do it?

Follow Bill Oddie's suggestion and listen out for birdsong! If you have a garden or balcony you could do this there, or in front of your home (with a grown-up), when out on your daily walk, or even if you have the chance to have a quiet moment inside. Right this minute as I am writing this from my living room, I can hear birds singing!

Keep a record of the birdsong you think you identify.

- What do you think the name of the bird is?
- What did the song sound like to you? When you close your eyes and really focus on the sound, perhaps it sounds like the bird is saying some words (like Bill Oddie and Gary discussed in the video).
- Can you try to copy the birdsong?
- Record where you heard this birdsong.
- Perhaps you could look at the bird online and then draw the bird too.

These links might help:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=birdsong+for+beginners&&view=detail&mid=BD8C7A33365A20F22414BD8C7A33365A20F22414&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dbirdsong%2Bfor%2Bbeginners%26FORM%3DHDRSC3>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/birdsong.shtml>

If you have become interested in birdsong, you might also like this quiz (but it's probably something to enjoy with a grown-up if they have time).

BBC Radio 3 Quiz: How well do you know birdsong?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4svLYkz1gBKdf57X8wZChL3/quiz-how-well-do-you-know-birdsong>

David Attenborough lyre bird video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSB71jNq-yQ>