

Writing a song using homemade instruments

YOU WILL NEED

- **Some homemade instruments, like shakers, rubber band plucked instruments, drums – or you can use body as an instrument by clapping, clicking or tapping**
- **Pen and paper to record the words**

What to do first:

- **Go for a walk/or think about a walk you did recently**
- **Write down all the things that you see and notice**

How to write the song:

1. **Start clapping a regular pulse at a speed that you like that you can talk with (a good walking speed) You can even walk as you do this to get a good tempo.**
2. **Start to experiment with saying the first line of your song (this can be repeated at the beginning of every verse) whilst you clap. Take your time until you are happy with the rhythm and timing. When you're happy write it down so you don't forget it.**
3. **Look at the things that you recorded from your walk. How can they fit into your song? Can you think of some rhyming words? These will make your song more catchy. Lines 2 and 4 rhyming work well – even better if you can rhyme lines 1 and 3. Keep saying your lines and check they fit with your pulse and your first line. When you are happy with your words, write them down clearly.**
4. **Now you have the words for your song, find an instrument you can play a steady pulse on whilst you say the lines. This could be two different notes, or the same sound. Whilst you say the lines, see if you can find a way into a melody – go with the natural rising and falling of the voice in the sentence.**
5. **Add some rhythmic percussion on your homemade instruments or body percussion if there are enough members in your group, and some sound effects in between the verses**

Perform and share your song

Practise your song until you are confident and happy, then perform your song to someone at home, or by video link to a friend or relative or simply film yourself to watch it back.

Cross curricular links

Literacy – writing poetry and rhymes.

Other ideas

TIP – Read some books that are written in rhyme, particularly about going on a walk e.g. *We're going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen. You can even put those words to music or add sound effects

Get imaginative – you don't need to spot things on a real walk, you can imagine a walk that takes you to other places and feature animals, aliens, monsters or dinosaurs in your song.

Glossary

PERCUSSION – musical instruments played by striking with the hand, stick or beater or by shaking, including drums, cymbals, xylophones, gongs, bells and rattles

PULSE – repeating beats that are repeating and regular

RHYTHM – a pattern of notes made up of different durations

TEMPO – the speed of the music

VERSE – section of a song (a song is usually made up of more than one verse, and they are usually the same length)