

Carnival of the Animals - Part 1

Teacher Resources

Activities in this pack:



Information



Activity 3 Move



Activity 1 **Perform**



Activity 4 Perform



Activity 2 **Listen**

Introduction

This is a piece by Camille Saint-Saen's, a French composer who lived from 1835-1921). He played the piano and organ, composed many still famous pieces and was also a conductor. He was a very intelligent man who studied geology, botany and lepidoptery (butterflies and moths) and was an expert mathematician. The Carnival of the Animals is a collection of 14 short pieces that each represent animals.

- Royal March of the Lions
- Hens and Roosters
- Swift animals
- Tortoises
- The Elephant
- Kangaroos
- Aquarium
- Personages with Long Ears (Donkeys)
- The Cuckoo
- Aviary (House of Birds)
- Pianists
- Fossils
- The Swan
- Finale



This resource will look at several of the movements focusing on the different ways that Saint-Saens has depicted the animals through music.



The Royal March of the Lions

The piece opens with a fanfare.

- What is a fanfare?
- Where would you hear a fanfare? Just as a fanfare announces royalty, this fanfare announces the king of the beasts: the lion.

Identify the correct word in these sentences.

To create the image of a build up at the beginning, the music:

- Gets slower / faster
- Goes from high / low to high / low
- Becomes louder / softer
- Uses more / less instruments
- Covers a smaller / wider number of notes.

The Lion enters to a majestic theme played by the strings to this rhythm:



Learn to clap this rhythm. [Click here to listen to the rhythm.](#)
How does the composer create a sound like a lions roar?





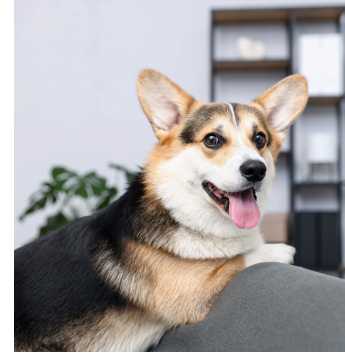
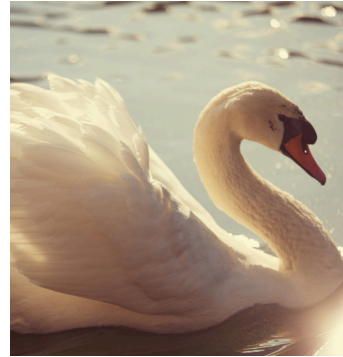
Mix 'n' Match

Look at the 8 animals pictured.

- What sound does each animal make?
- What characteristics are special to each animal?
- Discuss how the animal moves and how you might show that in music.

Click the numbers below to listen to the 6 excerpts and try to match them to the correct image.

Two of the animals are not included in this piece, so see if the children can aurally recognise the animal played and discuss what they heard in the music to make them respond that way.



1

2

3

4

5

6



The Aquarium

The music of The Aquarium is perhaps the most peaceful of the pieces in this work. This activity is for younger children to become more familiar with the music.

The instruments used in this are all high pitched. Ask the students what instruments they can recognise (flute, piano, strings, glockenspiel) and how the fish might be moving in the water (note: it does not suggest darting around, but slow moving and glistening in streams of light in the water).

Movement activity (to be done outdoors)

Divide the class into 2 groups. One group are the aquarium walls and bubbles, and the other are the fish.

The aquarium group stand in a circle with an arm space between each person, with a bubble maker and plastic cup of liquid. There are home made types you can do with a pipe cleaner and some washing up detergent examples online.

The second group are the fish moving freely in the “water” amongst the bubbles. If you have shiny scarves, they can show the movement through the water with these as well.

Play the Aquarium while the bubbles are being blown and the fish are swimming in response to the music. Swap roles and repeat.





Fossils

What is a fossil?

A fossil is a remnant, impression, or trace of an animal or plant from a past geologic age that has been preserved in Earth. What examples of fossils do the children know? In this case the fossil is a skeleton and the composer is suggesting the sound of dancing bones.

Predict:

- What instruments in the orchestra might be used to make the sound of bones?
- Would the sounds be long and sustained or short?
- Will the music be smooth or jerky?

This piece is based upon a repeating tune.

a) Clap the rhythm patterns below. Click here to listen to the rhythms.



b) Put these patterns together – this is the fossils tune.

