

Carnival of the Animals - Part 2

Teacher Resources

Activities in this pack:



Activity 5 Perform



Activity 8 Listen & Discuss



Activity 6 **Listen & Draw**



Activity 7 Perform

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Feel more



Boom whackers

This is an arrangement which allows the students to play boom whackers or chime bars to the Kangaroo movement of the Carnival of the Animals.

[Click here to view](#)





Listen and Draw The Swan

This movement is perhaps the best known of the whole piece.

The tune is played by the cello and often accompanied by a harp or piano and strings.

The cello tune is very famous and moves slowly and gracefully, in the same way as a swan swimming above the water. The accompaniment uses faster notes in a rhythm pattern that repeats over and over as an ostinato throughout the piece:



This pattern represents the constant movement of the webbed feet of the swan beneath the water, propelling it along.



[LISTEN TO THE MOVEMENT HERE](#)

Listen to the piece and discuss as a class:

- How does the music show the calmness of a swan gliding over the water
- What instruments can you hear? (cello, harp, piano, strings)
- The music is in 2 parts – a tune that flows slowly above and a constant pattern below.
- Draw a diagram that shows the 2 layers and the differences between them in terms of pitch and rhythm.



The Tortoise

This movement is a great example of humour in music.

What do we know about the movement of a tortoise? (exceedingly slow).

The tune that Saint-Saens has used for this piece is called the can-can. If you look at a French cabaret group dancing the can-can you see it is a high-energy, physically demanding which features high kicks, the splits, and cartwheels.

Why then is this a funny choice for the tune for the tortoise?

Teach the students to play the tune at the tortoise speed written below on a recorder, keyboard or other pitched instrument. Once memorised the students can try to perform it at a more typical can-can speed.



If your students are not all able to do this try using the Boomwhackers to accompany those students who can play it.





The Finale

Look at the Flamingos from Disney's 2000 Fantasia:

Fantasia 2000 (HD) - Carnival of the Animals

This video uses the Finale of The Carnival of the Animals. Challenge the class to watch the footage and identify ways that the animation mirrors the sounds in the music.

NB Many of the movements from the Carnival of the Animals can be found here for class ensemble, using Boomwhackers:

[Mr. G's Boomwhacker YouTube Channel](#)

