

The Wombat Shuffle

Teacher Resources

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Introduction

The Wombat Shuffle

A shuffle is a type of rhythm. The word is also used to describe walking along without lifting one's feet fully from the ground, often swaying to-and-fro.

This piece of music by Australian composer Roger Perrin is programmatic, meaning it is painting a picture in sound of something that is non-musical, in this case a wombat.





Perform the Wombat Shuffle

A shuffle rhythm has 4 strong beats in a bar and a triplet ostinato pattern.

This pattern can be learnt in three stages:

1. Alternate a right foot stomp with a left hand (LH) knee slap
2. Learn the right-hand rhythm playing a long-short pattern on each beat. (This can also be thought of as a 1,2,3 count without playing the 2).
3. Now put the two patterns together

This can be tricky so keep practising. You can also split into two groups with one doing the Right Foot and Left Hand and the others doing the Right Hand shuffle rhythm.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE RHYTHM](#)





The Wombat Shuffle

Predict what you think this piece might sound like.

Remember it is about a wombat shuffling along, so the composer will have made musical decisions based upon his knowledge of wombat behaviour:

- Wombats are usually solitary creatures
- Wombats mostly walk slowly but can move quickly if needed
- Wombats are generally considered good natured and friendly (from a distance!)

Share your answers, then listen to the piece to hear the composer's interpretation.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE WOMBAT SHUFFLE](#)





Create your own animal piece

Create your own Australian animal piece, e.g. the Brolga's Ballet, the Echidna's snuffle, the Pademelon hop, the Red Belly slide etc.

1. Think about the characteristics of your animal
2. How can you use music to create a sound image of the animal? Think about the instrument(s), tempo, type of tune and rhythms that can be used.
3. Create the piece either in small groups or alone using available technology.
4. Perform the piece for the class and try to guess which animals are features in your classroom musical zoo.

