

FIND OUT MORE... dynamics

Your school has a special day in July when it is going to be visited by a Brass Band. We think you'll love it!

Brass Bands play lots of different types of music with brass and percussion instruments. They love to use lots of different dynamics. Do you know what dynamics are?

When we write or talk about music, we use Italian words to describe the dynamics. Here are some you might like to use in the following activities.



Forte

Loud



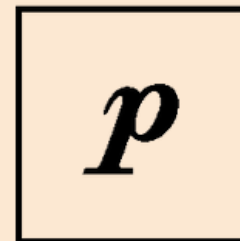
Mezzo Forte

Moderately loud



Mezzo Piano

Moderately soft



Piano

Quiet

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Listen to the William Tell Overture. | Composed by Rossini | Performed by Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

Choose some of the following activities to do while you listen.

Responding to music:

When the music is loud (forte) stretch up and make yourself really big!

When the music is quiet (piano) make yourself really small.



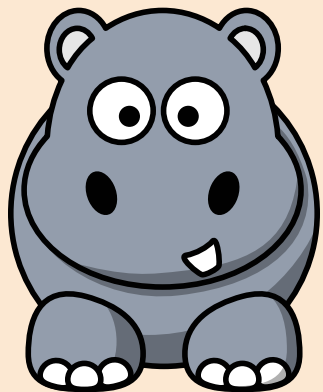
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Moving to music:

When the music is loud (forte), use your feet to stomp around the room.
When the music is quiet (piano), tiptoe.

Can you stay in time with the music?



Which animal do you think would be good at being forte?
Which animal do you think would be good at being piano?

Move around like those animals in time with the music.

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Playing with dynamics:

Choose a percussion instrument. Find two different ways of making sound on it. One that is forte, one that is piano.

Play along with the William Tell Overture making sure you are loud and quiet at the right times.

Why not challenge yourself and try to play mezzo forte (moderately loud) or mezzo piano (moderately quiet)?



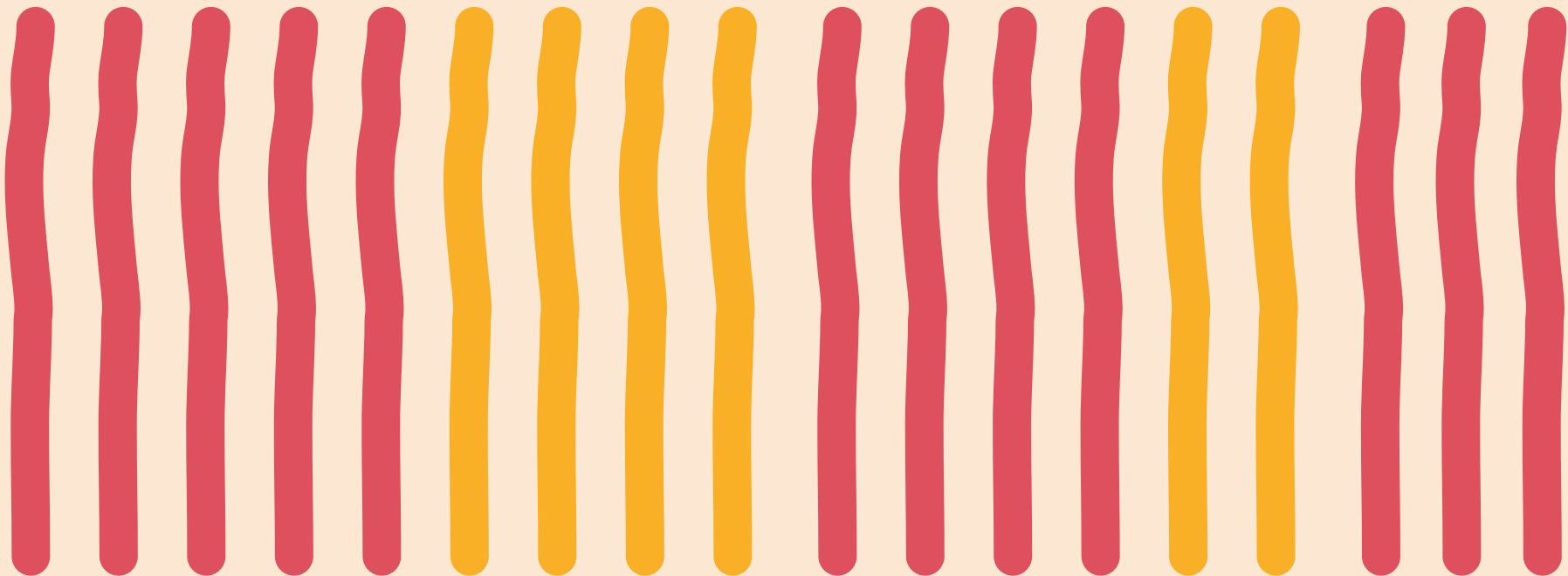
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Draw the dynamics:

Choose two colours. One that you think would be good for forte (loud) and one for piano (quiet).

Listen to the music. When the music is loud, draw lines using your loud colour. When it's quiet, use your quiet colour.



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Reading and drawing dynamics:

Often in music, composers write dynamics using letters like *f* (for forte) and *p* (for piano). Did you know you can show dynamics using pictures or symbols as well? We call this graphic notation.

Can you read and play the dynamics written here?

Use your white board to create some of your own. Ask a partner to play them.



