

FIND OUT MORE... analyse 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! British Brass Bands are traditional, musical ensembles that include a wide variety of brass instruments and percussion. The music that they play is really varied, from operatic overtures to pop music.

Your teacher is going to record the band so that you can listen back to some music played on the day. They will choose a piece of music that has interesting DYNAMICS.

What are Dynamics? _____

When music is written down in traditional notation, the volume of music is represented by abbreviations of Italian words. The most common terms in use are below:

ff Fortissimo
Very Loud

mf Mezzo Forte
Moderately loud

p Piano
Softly

f Forte
Loud

mp Mezzo Piano
Moderately soft

pp Pianissimo
Very softly

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You are going to create a graph that depicts the dynamics of the piece of music chosen by your teacher.

1. Add the duration of the piece of music in minutes and seconds in the box at the end of the x axis. Divide the x axis equally into separate minutes with your ruler, marking each minute with a short line along the line. The x axis is 20cm long.
2. Mark the y axis with six the divisions of dynamics, with the quietest dynamic at the bottom and the loudest dynamic at the top.
3. As you listen to the music, plot the dynamics on the graph below. You may show this as a line graph, a scatter graph or a bar graph.

