

FIND OUT MORE... musical structures

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.

This activity is about recognising that all the music we play has a structure. Music from different traditions or genres has 'typical' structures- models that are used over and over, but all music has one.

It helps to think about a piece of music as a building (a structure). Each kind of building has a typical design. A house, for example, has exterior walls, communal living spaces, a kitchen, some bedrooms, a bathroom or two. It might also have a garage and a garden. We are used to this standard design and would expect to find these things if visiting a typical home. And so it is with lots of kinds of music. For example, it would be unusual for a pop song not to have a chorus. It would be unusual for a solo piece not to have a main theme.

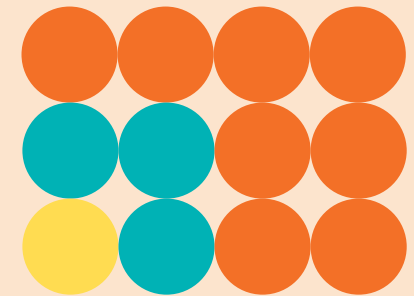
Different parts of a piece of music are often described using letters of the alphabet, A, B, C etc. Here we use colours. Here are some examples of music structures:



Rondo



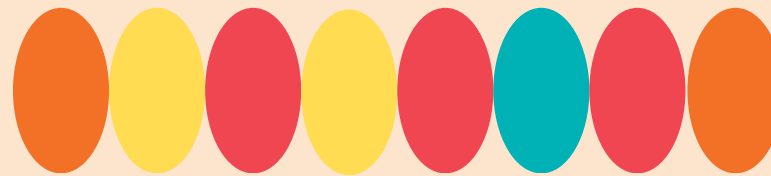
Ternary



Twelve-bar blues



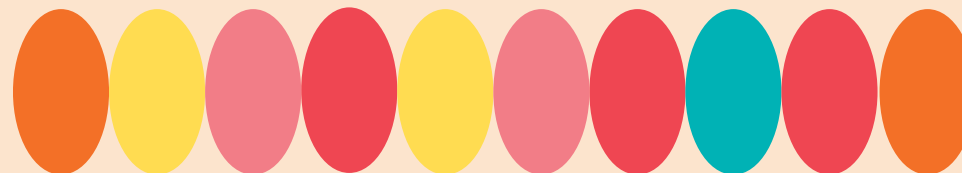
Binary



Popular song structure




Variation

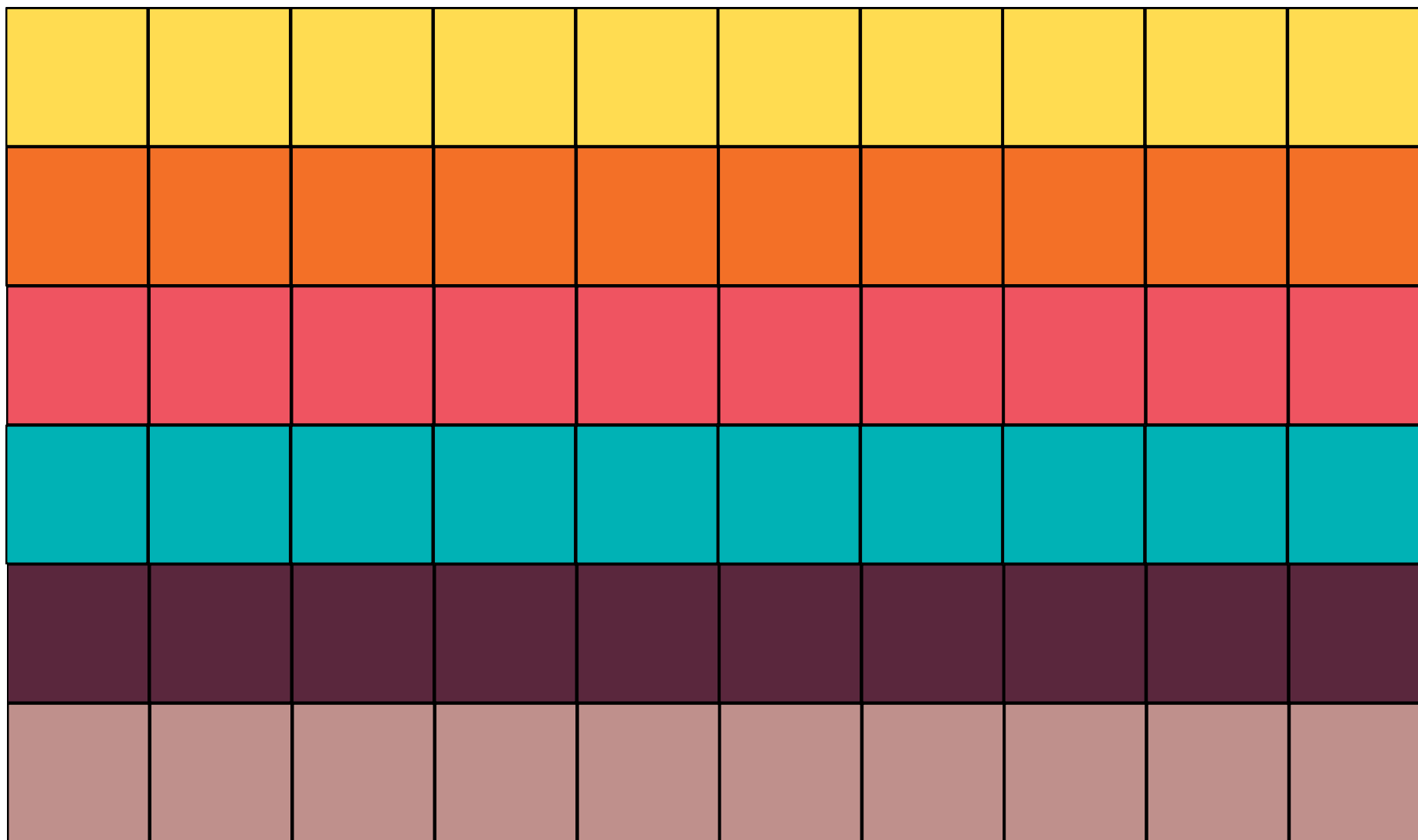


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Listen to the music that your visiting band performs when they visit and choose two or three pieces to discover their structure.

- Listen out for musical ideas that repeat or keep coming back. Repetition helps the listener remember the music once it has stopped.
- Listen out for new musical ideas and how they might contrast with the first one. Contrast keeps the listener interested.

Music Title	Structure - stick the coloured shapes along the row according to the structure of the music.	
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Cut out the shapes. Each square is a musical idea. Each colour is a different musical idea, Stick the squares in order in the table to represent the structure of the music you hear.