

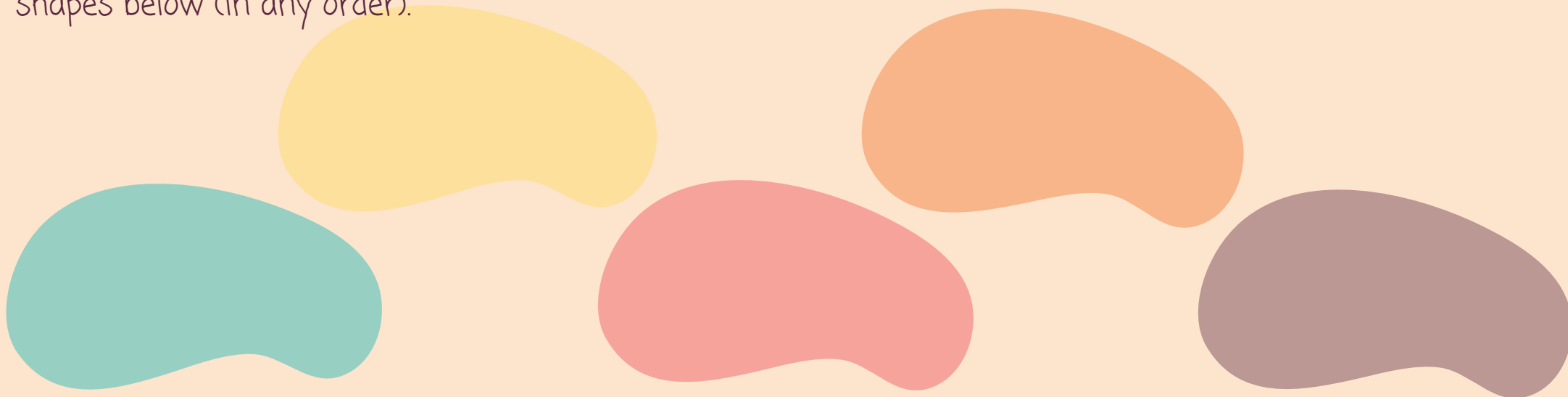
FIND OUT MORE... analyse elements of the song

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.

1. The Brass Foundations song, "BRASS!" has a certain mood, it creates a certain feeling or atmosphere. What words would you use to describe the mood of "BRASS!"? Write five words in the shapes below:



2. Which of the nine interrelated dimensions of music feature the most in this music? Remember, they are: Pitch, Pulse, Timbre, Melody, Rhythm, Texture, Tempo, Dynamics, Harmony. Put the five most important in the shapes below (in any order).



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3. In the middle column, describe how you might change the elements of the music written in the first column. In the 3rd column, describe what effect that might have on the music.

Element	How could this be changed?	What effect would it have on the music?
Eg: Tempo	The music could be played at a much slower tempo	The song would lose its feeling of fun and become more serious.
Timbre		
Melody		
Rhythm		
Harmony		
Pitch		

Teacher support notes

1. Words which you might use the five capsule shapes: jolly, upbeat, hopeful, happy, positive, energetic, lively, bright and breezy, optimistic, confident, cheerful, merry, joyful, bubbly, chirpy

2. Interrelated dimensions of music you might prioritise in the five shapes:

Pitch: because combined pitches create melody - the most important part of this music.

Timbre: because the brass instruments are the most important theme of the song.

Melody: because the melody is the most important because it is being sung

Rhythm: because the repeated and imitated rhythms help to remember parts of the song.

Harmony: because the use of mainly major chords gives a positive mood.

Pulse is omitted because the pulse stays the same all the way through (nothing of interest).

Dynamics stay the same all the way through (except for "soft and gentle").

Tempo could be included because the tempo does 'rallentando' at the end of the verse.

3. We suggest that you should discuss the table activity before asking the children to write. It might be that you discuss these ideas as a class and fill it in together, or it could be done in table groups or other small groups with one child being a scribe.

Element

How could this be changed?

What effect would it have on the music?

Eg: Tempo

The music could be played at a much slower tempo

The song would lose its feeling of fun and become more serious.

Timbre

Discuss what this song might sound like if it were played by different ensembles, for example, a string orchestra, a rock band, or by a marching military band.

For example; An orchestra might make this feel 'lighter' - not as lively, it might sound a little more serious. A rock band might make the song feel a bit more free and easy - you might need a microphone to sing along! If it were played by a military Band it might feel more precision - how would the singing be heard with a military band?

Melody

The melody, or tune, could be changed in all sorts of ways - but it would change the song's identity and become another song. Parts of the song could be changed - for example, create some melody instead of the rap.

Changing the melody would change the song radically! The melody is the song's identity. It would be like changing your name.

Rhythm

This song has a 'swing' feel to it. The rhythms are loose and syncopated. Could the rhythms be changed to suit a different style (for example - Reggae, Jive, Rock n Roll, Bhangra).

This response depends on the direction of your conversation opposite. Reggae might make it feel more relaxed. Jive or Rock n Roll might feel more lively. Bhangra might too.

Harmony

Most of the chords in this song are major chords. It is written in a major key. What if it were in a minor key? Demonstrate the difference between a major chord and a minor chord.

Music in a major key that is upbeat often feels positive and optimistic. Music in a minor key and that is upbeat can feel quite dramatic and serious - it might make the listener feel anxious

Pitch

If the whole song were a lot lower or a lot higher, this may have an effect on the mood, even if the tempo stays the same.

This music played at a higher pitch might make it feel shrill and cold - like cartoon music!
This music played at a lower pitch might make it feel warmer and more 'friendly or homely'.