

Carnival of the Animals

By Camille Saint-Saens 1835-1921



Guided Listening Activities

Saint-Saens lived and worked in Paris and became very well known as a composer, pianist and organist. Lots of other composers admired him and his skills. He wrote operas, instrumental music and orchestral music. One of his best loved compositions is called 'The Carnival of the Animals' and it features different 'movements' (bits of the music) all written about different animals.

Listen to the Introduction music which leads into **The Lion**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A7U8pZJgbI>

Imagine The Lion prowling around looking for food. See if you can hear when The Lion roars.

What instruments can you hear in this piece?

Use the listening map

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WBvQQZZI28>

to follow the music again. The lines in the listening map represent the different sounds you hear. You will be able to see The Lion's roar in green.

There are lots of other animals during this piece of music, but we are going to pick out a few of them to listen to.

The first one is **The Cuckoo**.



It is very hard to see a cuckoo in real life, but you can sometimes hear them at the start of spring. Listen to The Cuckoo and look at the lovely pictures.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3u5U1oSmUTU>

How many times do you hear the sound 'cuc-koo'?

The next piece is called **The Fossils**.



Although not a live animal but linked to the animals with bones. Listen to the music using the listening map. When 'B' is played there is a tune that you may

know. Can you name that tune?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhAUjEgRHXg>

Can you name the instruments from the listening map?

A _____

B _____

C _____

The next animal is **The Tortoise**.



As you know these animals move very slowly. Watch the conductor very carefully and see how slowly he must move his arms to keep the orchestra at the slow pace. You may recognize the tune. Listen carefully - can hear a famous tune?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZBYQ-88kts>

Saint-Saens used this tune as a bit of a joke. Another French composer called Offenbach wrote the tune that Saint-Saens used but it goes much faster. You may know it as The Can- Can - here's a link;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf9CtbLGzgw>

See if you can clap along in time with the orchestra and conductor. It's tricky as it goes really fast. Good Luck!

Research Topic

Watch this clip of 'Carnival of the Animals'. The musicians each recorded their parts at their homes during 'lockdown'. You will be able to hear short examples of many animals which are included in the whole work.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xN5ThS83sbw>









Practical and Creative Music Activity

Listen to the music Fossils:


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhAUjEgRHXg>

Tap a steady pulse on your legs to match the music. You can listen to the piece a few times until you feel confident with the speed of the music and begin to recognise the main section that keeps returning. The pattern in the grid below matches the repeating section of "Fossils".

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Listen | to the | bones. | | Listen | to the | bones. | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Listen | to the | beat | of the | Fos- | -sil | bones. | |

1. Practise saying the words to the rhythm pattern.

The purple notes  are short and worth half a beat each. Here we have two half beats together.

The red notes  are worth 1 beat.

This symbol  represents a 1 beat rest.

2. Practise clapping the rhythm pattern while saying the words in your head.

3. Get a plastic bowl and 2 plastic spoons or make a craft stick xylophone, or a paper xylophone, (which you can make with this video clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxQOJja9XVM> or anything else on which you can bang). Perform the rhythm on your new xylophone.