Lesson 3 – Gustav Holst

Lesson 3: Gustav Holst : 'The Planets made him a star'

Knowledge Objective/goal	Task	Lesson Detail	Vocabulary
To listen and respond to Holst's composition on the planet Mars.	Task: **Children to work in groups using percussion instruments to create their own interpretation of Mars.**	Begin lesson listening to a sample of: 'https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bzWSJG93P8' '. The 'Imperial March' by John William's. This piece music is quite similar to piece of music based on Mars. How does the music make you feel and why? How many instruments are playing? What is the tempo? What is the general texture of the piece? Prior Learning: Previous lesson based on Holst's overall composition on the seven movements of the planets. Teach – Introduce the piece 'Mars' by Gustav Holst, character name 'The Bringer of War.' Holst wrote this in anticipation of the outbreak of World War 1 and was performed immediately after the end of the war in 1918. The music tells us about the planets mood, brutal and frightening (Like a war). It is a march but an unusual one. A march usually has 4 beats (Left right left right) but 'Mars' has 5 beats per bar which makes it tricky to march too. Play children the piece of music 'Mars' by Gustav Holst. Explain to the children that its character name is the bringer of war. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmk5frp6-3Q Explain that this is the first movement of the Planets Suite and ask the children to think about the following things while listening to it: • The rhythm you can hear • How does the piece create aggression and angst? • How does the music make you feel? • What are the similarities and differences to 'Mars' and the 'Imperial March.' Task – Children to work in groups using percussion instruments to create their own interpretation of Mars. Plenary: Children to share ideas to the rest of the class and explain that in the next lesson we will be looking at the planet Venus.	Gustav Holst – British Composer, arranger and teacher. Composer – Author of music Inspiration - Something that stimulates you to feel or do something. Mars – The red planet named for the Roman God of War. War – A situation where two or more countries fight against each other over a period of time. Imperial – Power connected with an empire. March – Walk in a military manner John Williams – American composer Relevant Musicians: Gustav Holst John Williams

Suggested Resources:

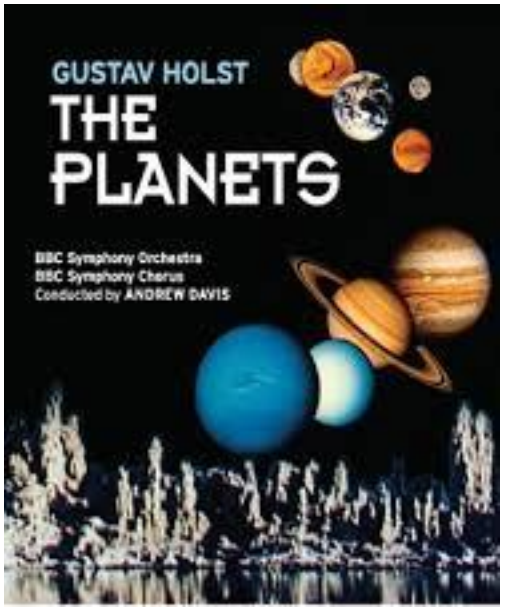
'https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bzWSJG93P8' '. The Imperial March by John William's.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmk5frp6-3Q Mars by Gustav Holst.

Year 4
Spring 1
Lesson 3

Gustav Holst:
The Planets Made Him a Star







Let's Listen - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bzWSJG93P8





Very similar to Mars – Gustav Holst - Compare and contrast

What instrumental families can you hear in this piece of music?

Where do you think this piece might be played?

How does the music make you feel? Why?

What are the dynamics?

Were there lots of instruments playing or just one?

What is the tempo?

What style of music do you think this is?

What is the general texture of the piece?

Have you heard it before?

Prior Learning



Mercury

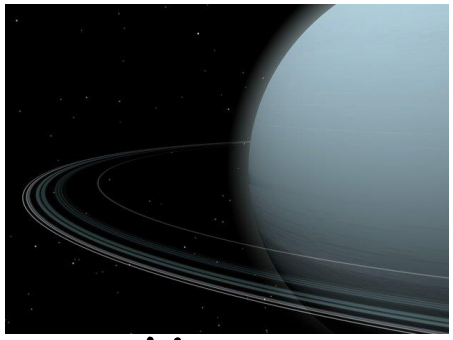


Saturn

What did we learn last lesson?

Can you remember any of the character names?

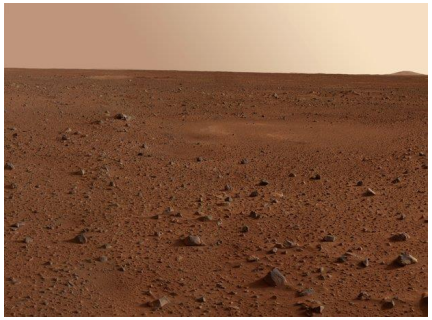
How did each piece compare?



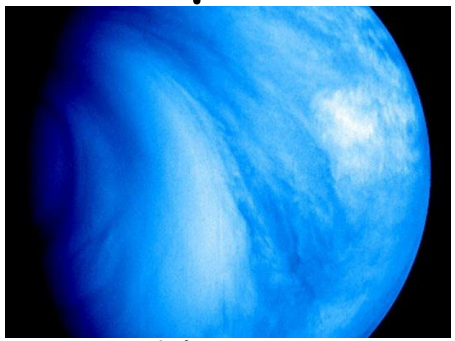
Uranus



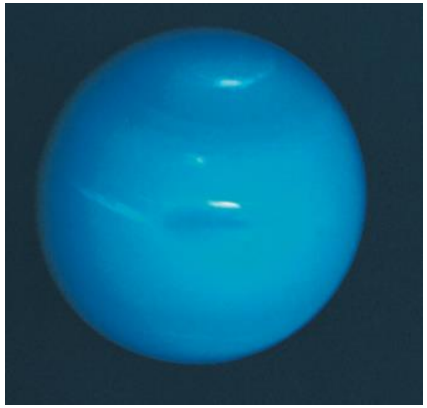
Jupiter



Mars

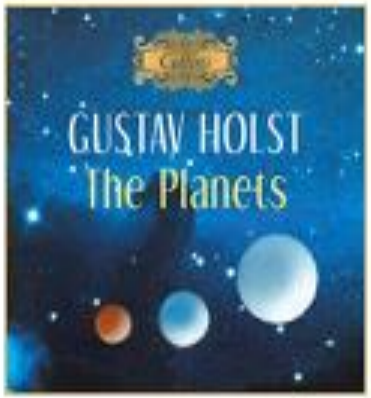


Venus



Neptune

Our Knowledge Organiser



Written between 1914-1916
by British composer Gustav Holst

Within the music of the planets, planet Earth was not included because we live on planet earth and Gustav was focusing on planets that are in outer space. Pluto was not discovered until 1930 and so this was not included in the suite, however in 2000 the British composer Collin Matthews was asked to write a piece of music which is known as Pluto the Renewer.

Gustav Holst
21 September 1874 – 25 May 1934



Composer Gustav Holst who was born in 1874 in Cheltenham where his Father was a music teacher which was a big inspiration for Gustav. From a young boy Gustav was always interested in music and learnt to play the violin and piano but due to the family being so poor Gustav's Father had to borrow money to send him to the Royal College of London to study music. He eventually started to play the Trombone instead of the piano as due to cramp in his hands playing the piano was extremely painful. He practised the trombone while he walked through fields which scared the sheep!

Vocabulary

Composer – author of music

Inspiration - Something that stimulates you to feel or do something.

Solar System – The bound system of the sun and the objects that orbit around it.

Ascending – To rise/go up
Eerie – Strange, mysterious and frightening



Key Vocabulary



Gustav Holst – British Composer, arranger and teacher.

Composer – Author of music

Inspiration - Something that stimulates you to feel or do something.

Mars – The red planet named for the Roman God of War.

War – A situation where two or more countries fight against each other over a period of time.

Imperial – Power connected with an empire.

March – Walk in a military manner

John Williams – American composer

L.O: To listen and then compose our own version of Mars.



Success Criteria:

To identify features used in Mars.
To explore sounds and instruments.
To make musical choices when composing.

Here are today's key words:

Gustav Holst

Mars

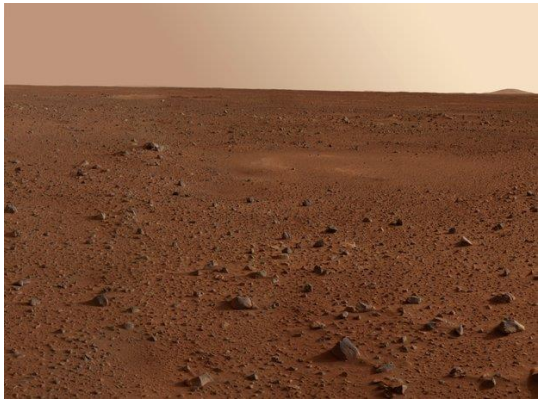
composer

March

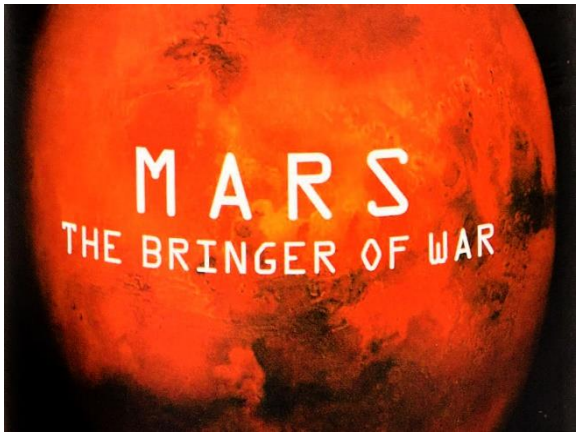
Teach/Talk Task

Mars, the bringer of war.

Holst wrote this in anticipation of the outbreak of World War 1 and was performed immediately after the end of the war in 1918.





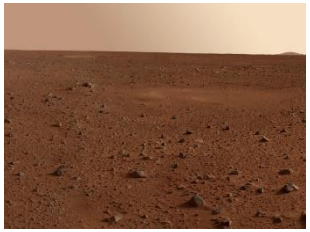


The music tells us about the planets mood, brutal and frightening (like a war). It is a march but an unusual one.

A march usually has 4 beats (left right left right) but 'Mars' has 5 beats per bar which makes it tricky to march to.

Teach/Talk Task

Have a listen to Mars, the bringer of War – **Gustav Holst.**







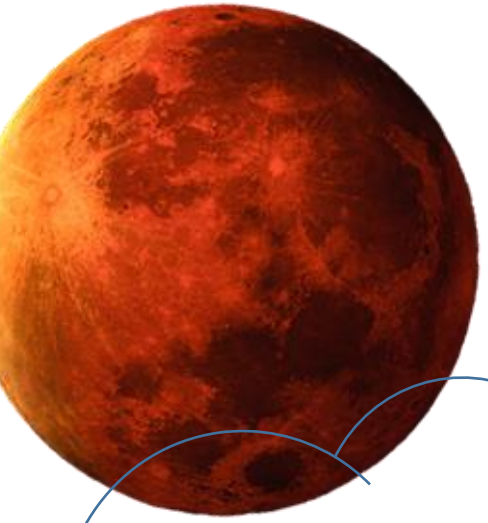
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmk5frp6-3Q

Think about the following things while listening to it:

1. ***The rhythm you can hear***
2. ***How does the piece create aggression and angst?***
3. ***How does the music make you feel?***
4. ***What are the similarities and differences to 'Mars' and the 'Imperial March.'***

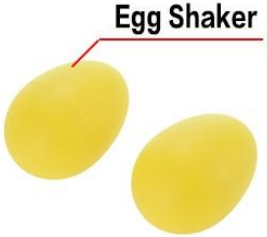
Task - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmk5frp6-3Q

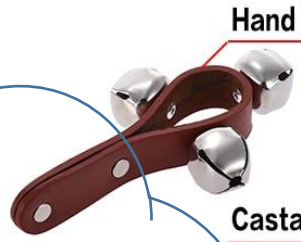
Children to work in groups using percussion instruments to create their





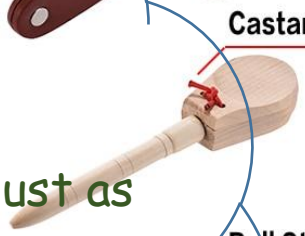


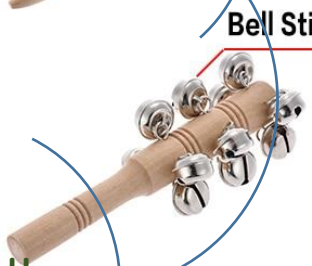
















Step for depth:

Use dynamics to create tension, just as Holst does.

Piano- quiet

Forte- loud

Crescendo -become louder gradually.

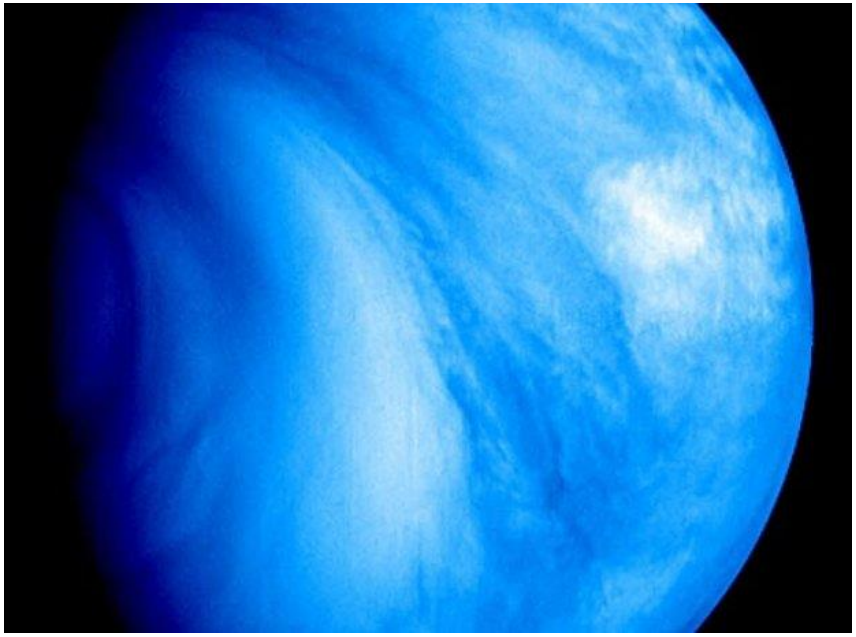
Diminuendo – become quieter gradually.

And finally…

Let's share our compositions….

What have we learned?







Next lesson we will be looking at the planet Venus.