

Lesson Plan – Neptune

Learning Objectives

Pupils will -

- Explore layered sounds
- Create gentle textures

Key Vocabulary

Texture: the way sounds are put together

Diminuendo: gradually get softer, fade away

Resources

- Neptune LSO performance clip
- Neptune resource clip
- Art materials
- Optional: Instruments (classroom percussion, pitched and/or unpitched)

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction

Discuss the different ways water moves and have a go at making watery sounds using voice, gestures and body percussion

2. Task 1: Drawing watery sounds

Listen to Neptune and identify the different watery sounds – smooth, still and shimmering

Listen again and draw these sounds making abstract artworks

3. Task 2: Creating watery sounds

In groups, use instruments to invent watery sounds – smooth, still and shimmering

4. Conclusion

Put your ideas together to make one piece.

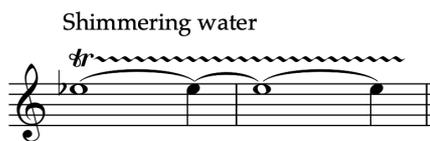
Add a diminuendo, fade away.

Assessment

- Can pupils make quiet sounds and layer them?
- Can pupils perform a diminuendo?

Task 1: Drawing watery sounds

1. Listen to the opening of Neptune. It is made up of watery sounds. As you listen ask your children to draw the shapes of the sounds in the air with their finger. Can they spot the following types of watery movement:



2. Give out paper and art materials. Ask your children to choose three colours – one colour for smooth, one for shimmering and one for still. Listen to Neptune again and challenge your class to draw these three watery sounds they hear to make a piece of abstract art.
3. Share your pictures and discuss similarities and differences.

Task 2: Creating watery sounds

1. Split into three teams and name them 'smooth water', 'shimmering water' and 'still water'. Their job is create a short piece of music to match their name. Encourage each team to think carefully about which sounds (body percussion, voice or instruments) to use and to how to make their music sound smooth, shimmering or still.
2. Hear each group one by one and ask the class to combine their ideas to make one piece to represent Neptune. Remind them that Holst's music is very gentle and quiet with no sudden bangs. It all fades away (diminuendos) at the end – can your children do that too?