

# Exploring the voice

MUSIC AND WELLBEING RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

**Exploring the voice with warm-ups, pitching, scales and songs:**

Teaching aids:

Backing tracks – for each activity there is a backing track which provides the majority of the instructions for teachers and pupils. Additional instructions and words have been provided below.

Focus of Lesson

- Exploring the voice
- Melody
- Singing a major scale
- Singing high and low notes
- Songs from other cultures

Curriculum goals:

- Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- Play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression

Learning Outcomes:

- Appreciation of different music genres
- Appreciation of music from different cultures
- Understanding high and low notes
- Understanding the concept of pitch
- Understanding what a major scale sounds like



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## Key Vocabulary:

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**Pitch:**

How high or low the note is

**Pitching:**

Set one's voice or a piece of music at a particular pitch

**Melody:**

A sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying; a tune.

**Major scale:**

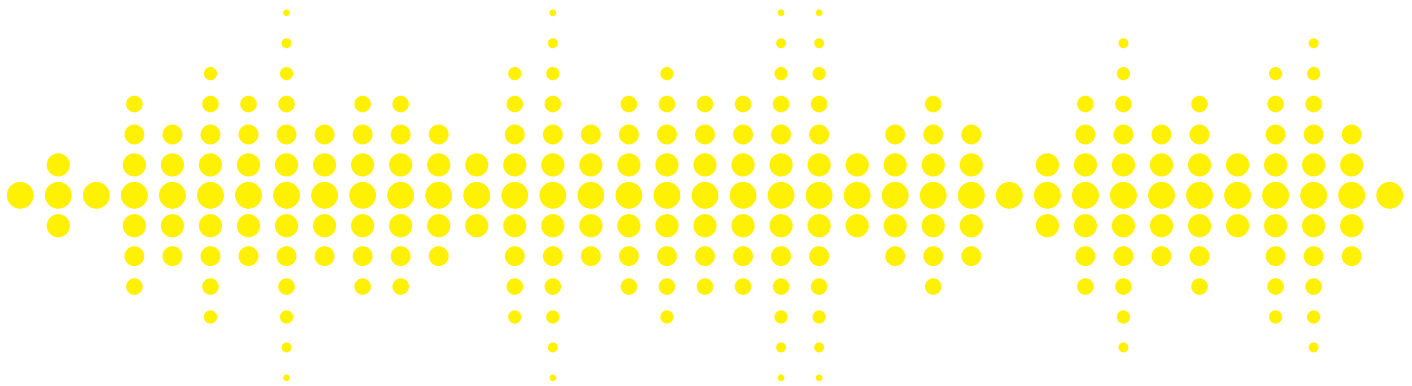
The major scale is one of the most commonly used musical scales, especially in Western music. It is one of the diatonic scales. Like many musical scales, it is made up of seven notes: the eighth duplicates the first at double its frequency so that it is called a higher octave of the same note

**Ascending:**

Going up

**Descending:**

Going down



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## Fun vocal warm up - Backing Track 1:

All instructions are on the backing track.

## Pitching and Movement: Pitching High Low Middle Backing Track 2

Can you match your voice to the note with a humming sound?

Use a vocal Siren to match your voice to the note, with an 'OOOOO' sound.

Ask students to reach their arms up in the air when they sing high and down to the floor on low and make a hand gesture for middle whilst standing straight:

High - Low - Middle

High - Low - Middle

I can sing a song that goes High - Low - Middle

Low - High - Middle

Low - High - Middle

I can sing a song that goes Low - High - Middle

## Learn to sing a song around a C major scale Golden Corn - Major Scale Backing Track 3

Ascending and descending in pitch.

When playing the initial scale, ask the students to conduct, using their hands to move up and down the scale.

Golden Corn is growing so high x 2

The wind blows east, the wind blows west

And the little mouse runs right down to his nest



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## Jamawaile Song - Backing Track 4

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Jamawaile is a welcome song from Gambia in West Africa

**Chords:** C Major, G major, A minor

**Vocal harmony parts:** C E G

Once comfortable with the song ask students to add their own vocal sounds  
Encourage students to harmonise with song, or sing a different part

You can also add some body percussion to the song to match with the rhythm.

**Body percussion for Jamawaile:**

1 Plum Banana (Chest clap clap clap) x 3 - Beat 4 - Apple Banana (Chest Chest clap clap)

## Bonjour Mes Amis - Backing Track 5

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Bonjour Mes Amis - 'Hello my friends'

Once you have finished the activities, ask pupils to record in their journals how they have felt.

