



# Knowledge Organiser: Greek Myths

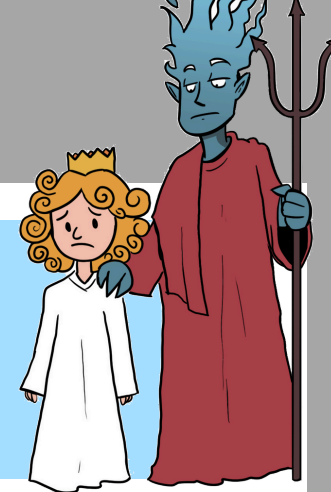
## Topic Background

Music, theatre and poetry were very important to the Ancient Greeks. This can be seen through the myth of 'The Nine Muses'. In Greek mythology, 'The Nine Muses' were Greek goddesses who ruled over the arts and sciences and offered inspiration in those subjects. In Ancient Greece all storytelling would have involved dance and music. One well known story is that of Orpheus and Eurydice. Orpheus was a very talented musician. He went to the underworld to save his wife, Eurydice, who had died. When Orpheus failed to follow the instructions of Hades, the god of the underworld, he lost Eurydice forever.

Another musical Greek legend is that of Pythagoras, whom it is said, discovered the foundations of musical tuning by listening to the sounds of four blacksmith's hammers, which produced both pleasant and unpleasant sounds depending on the pitches that were played.

## Listening Pieces

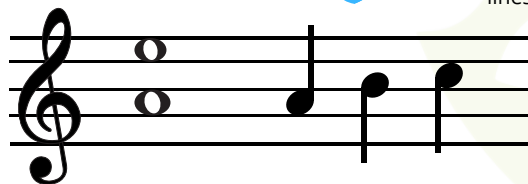
- First Passing Cloud, from The Mask of Orpheus by Harrison Birtwistle, 1986
- The Dance of the Furies from Orfeo ed Euridice, Gluck, 1762



## Musical Knowledge

**treble clef** shows us when writing music that the notes on the staff are above middle C

**stave** notes are placed on the five lines to show the pitch

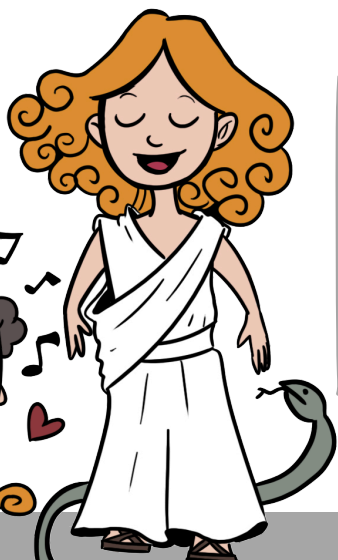


use A and E to play a drone

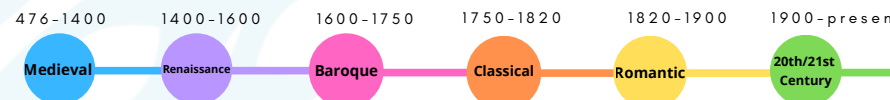
E  
A

A B C

use A, B and C to improvise a melody



C D E F G A B C  
do re mi fa so la ti do  
**C major scale**



## Key Vocabulary

- appraise:** evaluate music
- classical:** an era in the history of music from 1750-1820. Music has clear melodies and lots of contrast.
- compose:** to write or create music
- drone:** a sustained sound, which could be a single note or a chord
- duration:** how long or short a sound or silence is
- dynamics:** how loud or quiet a sound is
- improvise:** creating music on the spot
- inter-related dimensions:** pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure
- melody:** the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches
- pulse:** the steady heartbeat of the music
- rehearse:** to practice for a later performance
- scale:** a set of musical notes ordered by pitch
- score:** how a musician writes music down
- tempo:** how fast or slow the music is
- texture:** combining different layers of music to give an overall effect

