

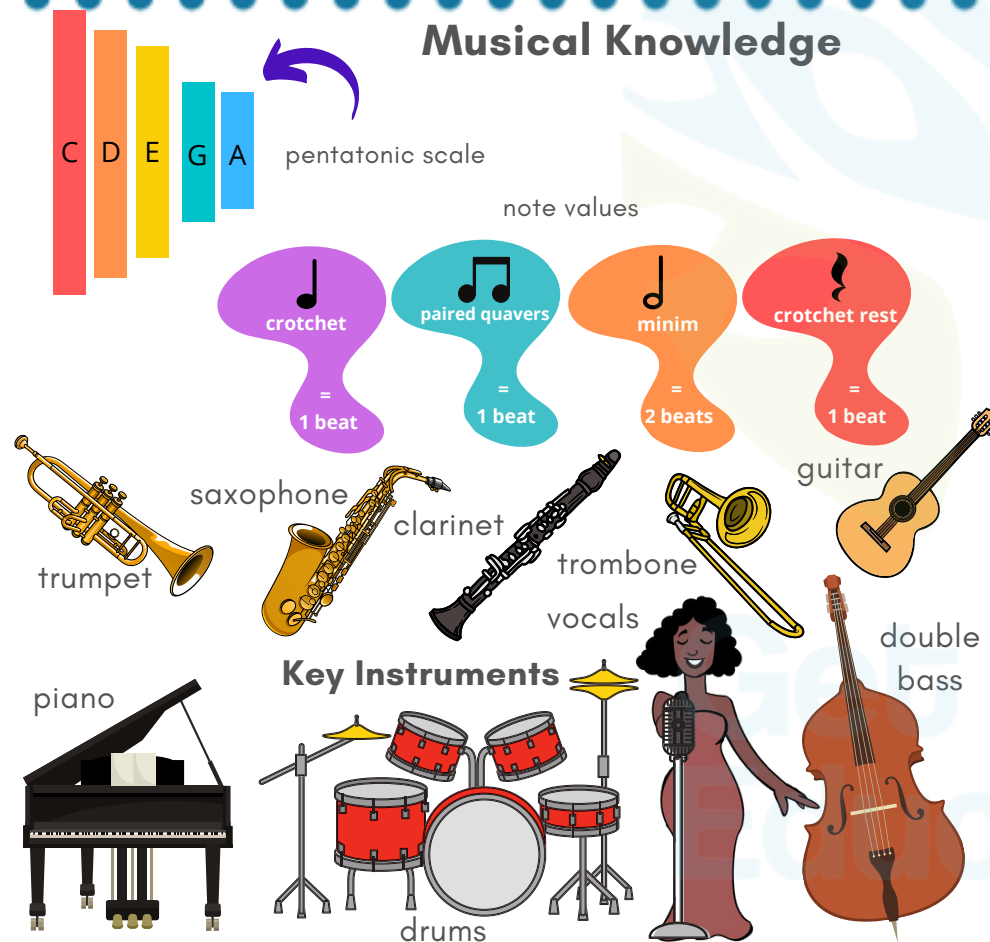
Knowledge Organiser: Jazz

Topic Background

Jazz music was developed in the United States by African-American musicians in the late 1800s but became extremely popular during the 1920s which also became known as the 'Jazz Age.' Jazz continued to be very popular throughout the 1900s and influenced many new genres of music including funk, rock and roll and hip hop.

Scatting is a form of improvisation with the voice. Improvisation means to make something up on the spot rather than rehearsing a composed series of notes. Improvisation is the foundation of jazz music and part of what makes it so exciting to listen to and play. Ella Fitzgerald was known as the 'Queen of Scat' because she was so good at it.

Musical Knowledge



pentatonic scale

C D E G A

note values

- crotchet = 1 beat
- paired quavers = 1 beat
- minim = 2 beats
- crotchet rest = 1 beat

Key Instruments

- trumpet
- saxophone
- clarinet
- trombone
- vocals
- piano
- drums
- guitar
- double bass

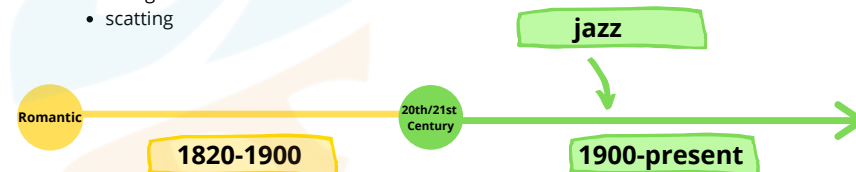
Listening Pieces

- It Don't Mean a Thing by Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington, 1965
- Backwater Blues by Bessie Smith, 1927
- Jubilee by Louis Armstrong, 1938
- The Skeleton in the Closet by Louis Armstrong, 1936
- Lift Every Voice and Sing / Moanin', Jazzmeia Horn, 2017



Key Features

- call and response
- improvisation
- swing time
- scatting



Key Vocabulary

- bar line:** separates the bars
- call and response:** two phrases, the first phrase being the call and the second phrase is a response to the first
- improvisation:** creating music on the spot
- lyrics:** words that make up a song
- melody:** the tune of the music, made up of high and low pitches
- pentatonic scale:** a series of five notes e.g. C, D, E, G, A
- pitch:** how high or low a sound is
- rhythm:** patterns of sound consisting of shorter and longer notes
- scatting:** a form of improvisation with the voice
- swing time:** music not falling on the main beats, sounds groovy
- time signature:** tells us how many beats are in each bar and which note value is to be given one beat