

A wonderful train journey

This week's musical challenge is about listening and using our imagination.

We will also learn about the music of Brazil.

so .. Here we go!

Listen to the music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rRFDnTEu6g>

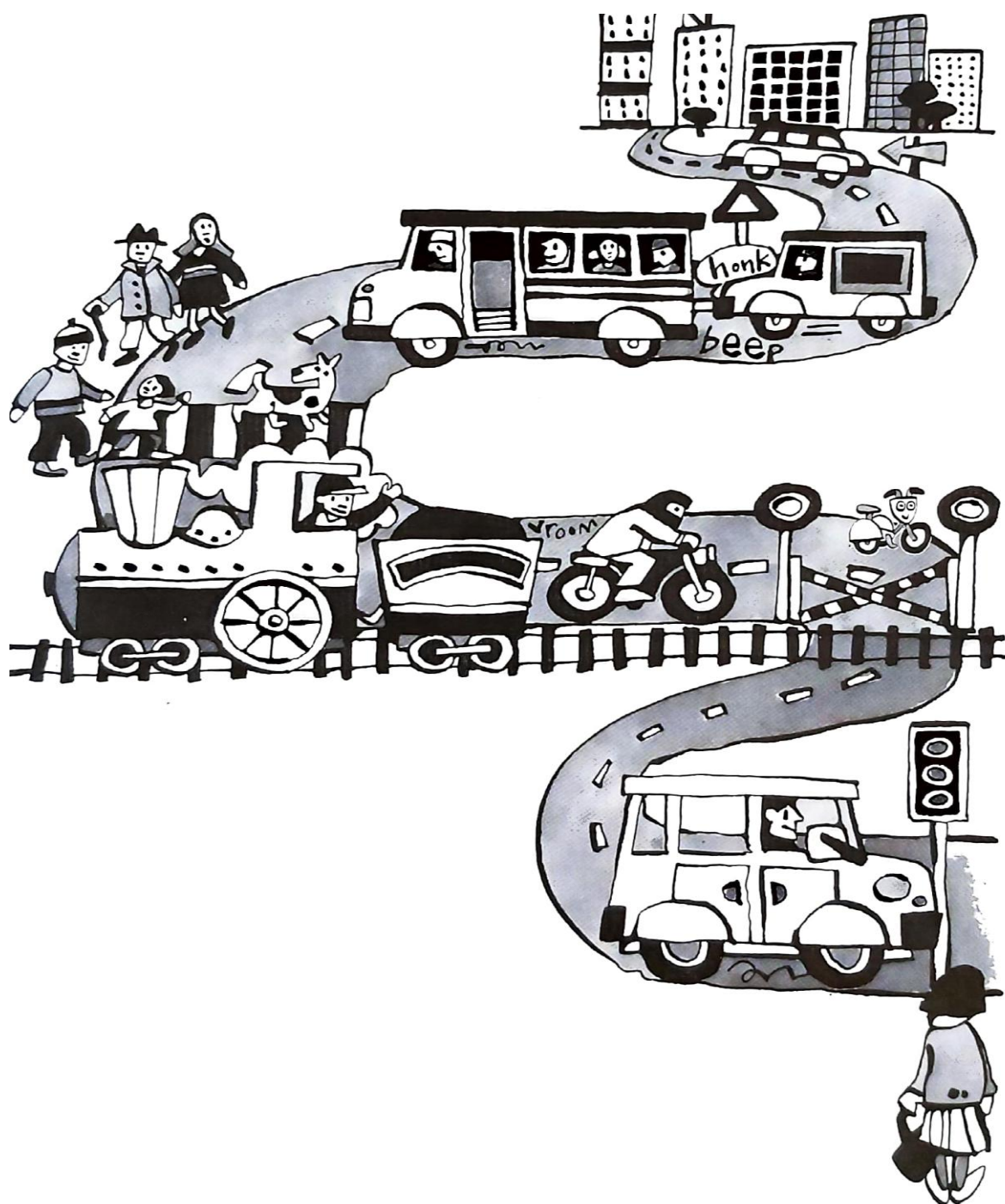
This is a song called **O trenzinho do Caipira** (Portuguese for **The little train of the Caipira**), which describes a train journey. Listen carefully:

- Is the train moving fast or slow?

- Is the train going up and down the hills?

- What do you think we could see through the windows? Is this train going through a busy city or the countryside?

- Can you hear any other transport sounds ? Or any people? Colour in what you can hear.

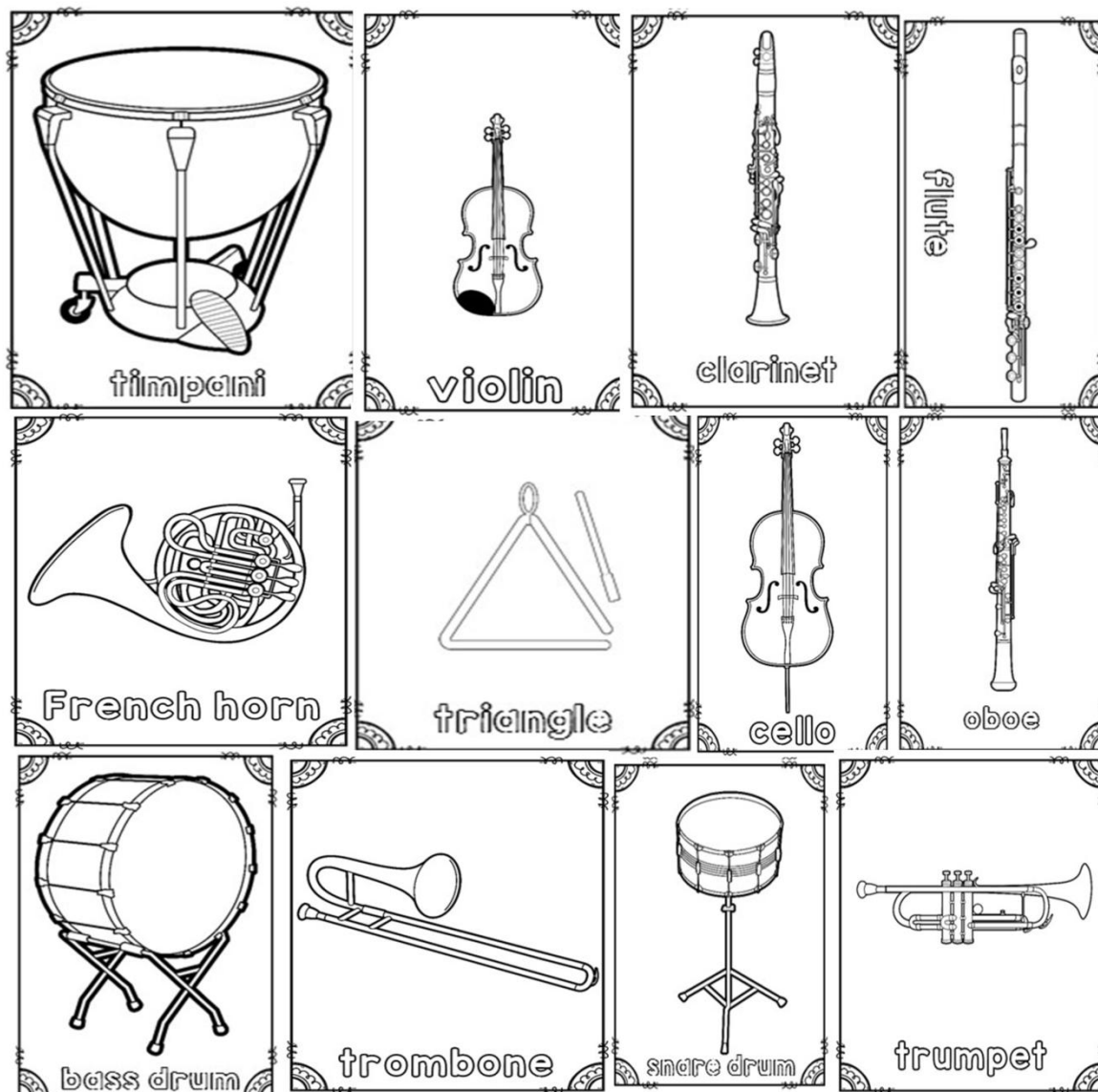


This train journey is played by an orchestra, which is a big group of instruments playing all together.

Do you know any orchestral instruments?

If you don't, don't worry! We will learn more about them in the next musical challenges.

If you do, circle the instruments you can hear in the train's journey.



Tip: If you'd like, you can give these very black and white instruments some nice colours!

We all hear different stories from the same music ... how about you **imagine the fantastic journey of the little train?** You can make a **drawing** about it or you can write a **wonderful text** (or even both, if you'd like). Listen and use your imagination!

Discovery time!

The Little Train of the Caipira was written by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos.

Maybe you already know lots of things about Brazil:

- They have a really good football team;
- It is the home of the Amazon Rainforest, the lung of the Earth;
- It is the largest country of South America;
- It has lots of climates, from temperate to tropical;
- The Carnaval is a colourful party celebrated throughout the country in February;
- And more ...

Did you also know they have a **very rich and unique musical culture**, with different musical styles?



Here go some examples that you can listen to:

Samba: Created in Rio de Janeiro, this is probably the most known type of music from Brazil, by being the music (and dance) of the Carnaval. It is a mixture of Brazilian and African influences. In it you can hear lots of percussion alongside guitars and voices.

Listen to Samba here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceBdGz3eTFg>

Bossa nova: Also developed in Rio, it has its roots in Samba. It is a more relaxed music, with more emphasis in melodic instruments, such as flutes.

Listen to Bossa nova here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0o1AtEhV9M>

Gaúcha: This is traditional from the southern states of Brazil. Most of the songs are about the land and working the fields, a loved one, or the animals of day to day life such as cattle and horses. The accordion and the guitar are very common instruments in this music.

Listen to Gaúcha here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyO1d1SGWqs>



MPB: Short for *Música Popular Brasileira* (Brazilian Popular Music) developed as a mixture of Bossa Nova and folkloric traditions from different parts of the country. This resulted in very beautiful music (some of them you might know), with a nice balance between percussion instruments and the voice.

Listen to MPB here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT8HliFQ8Y0>

Choro: Probably the oldest of all the Brazilian music styles we have explored here, it is instrumental and started by involving only guitar, cavaquinho (a kind of ukulele) and flute. It evolved to include other combinations of instruments (especially other woodwind instruments). Some of the most beautiful Brazilian music written for solo guitar was written in the form of the choro.

Listen to Choro here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5NGOcNyF4g>

So after listening to all these different types of Brazilian music, do you have a favourite? Which one did you like the most?

Why did you like that the most?

Maybe you didn't like this music so much... and that's ok! Why didn't you like it?

If you have a musical instrument at home you could have a go at this Brazilian song, *Asa Branca*! This is written to better fit a recorder, but if you play the piano, the ukelele, the clarinet, the violin ... or any other instrument, it also sounds great.

Asa Branca

White wing



Asa Branca is a song from the Northeast of Brazil
It is about looking forward to come back
to our favourite place, home.

The middle bit with the high notes might look a bit more difficult.
You could try it if you are looking for a challenge.
If it's too difficult - Don't worry! You can play the beginning and end
(they are the same music - the chorus of the song).

The most important is that you have fun
and enjoy making music!

If you would like to try a musical instrument and you don't have one, you could try the recorder. Ask your parents to check out this link:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Yamaha-YRS24B-ABS-Resin-Recorder/dp/B000RVYV3E/ref=sr_1_32?dchild=1&keywords=recorder&qid=1587465894&sr=8-32