

Sunny Songs

There have been a multitude of songs written throughout musical history with a sunshine theme.

“Sunshine on My Shoulders” by John Denver and “Here Comes the Sun” by the Beatles are but two examples. This activity can be done by yourself or as a class. It will help you learn ‘through music’ - reinforcing, in a fun way, the importance of the sun in our lives.

What you need to do:

- Find as many songs as possible, which have sun or a link to sunshine in their creation.
- Write new words to well known songs such as Bingo changing the theme and chorus lines accordingly e.g. **S U N N Y, S U N N Y, S U N N Y and Sunny was the weather**
- Develop your “new” songs in a variety of ways to include actions to illustrate the words or find “instruments” to make appropriate sounds to illustrate your music.
- If there is a group of you, the chorus of songs can build up using equal groups - group 1 singing the first line, then group 2 joining in for the second line, with group 3 joining on the third line, and finally the whole class singing the fourth line.
- During each verse a group could keep the chorus going at a quieter volume.
- At appropriate places, e.g. each time the sun is mentioned (especially the chorus), some of you could make noises to illustrate the sun by blowing into empty plastic bottles, shaking tambourines, or employing verbal sounds.
- An ostinato part can be included with either untuned percussion instruments repeating the basic rhythm pattern of the tune, or tuned percussion.
- Individually or as a class, write and produce a completely new song (words and music) to tell the story of the sun and its “origin” in weather or its use as a resource.