



# Listening to Music - Drawing to Music



## Resources

Drawing to music can be a great way to relax! It can also help you put a visual to what you are hearing. If you are not sure what to draw, ask questions like:

1. Does the beat feel more like **straight** or **wavy** lines?
2. Do the melody/harmony notes seem more like **warm colors** or **cool colors**?
3. Does the song make you think of a particular scene, object, or person?

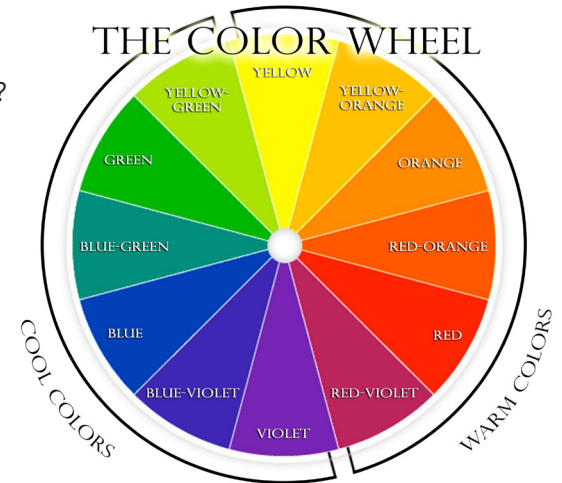
## Exploration

1. Choose a song to draw to

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Artist \_\_\_\_\_

2. Draw your picture below or attach it to the paper.



3. Name 2-3 ways that the song you listened to influenced or inspired your drawing!
4. Extension: Draw to the same song with a friend! See how your pictures are similar and different.



# Listening to Music - Knowing Instrument Sounds



## Resources

1. Listen to orchestral instruments on the [Dallas Symphony website](#)
2. Advanced: Check out this article on [Sweetwater.com](#) about famous synthesizer sounds and how they are recreated today!

## Exploration

1. Pick one instrument from the Dallas Symphony website to listen to.  
Instrument \_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe that instrument in three adjectives (descriptive words like: sharp, smooth, beautiful, bright, etc.)
3. What is your favorite instrument sound that you've heard so far? Why do you like that sound?

Name three instruments (of any type) that you can identify by ear

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# Listening to Music - What Is Form?



## Resources

**Introduction** - Introduces some material, often before a vocal part comes in

**Verse** - A repeated section with changing lyrics

**Pre-Chorus** - Builds into the chorus, often with repeated lyrical material

**Chorus** - The repeated and often catchiest part of a song. It often summarizes the song, thematically, and the lyrics often don't change

## Exploration

Write out the lyrics to the chorus of any song you know:

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How do you know this is the chorus of the song?

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Write your own chorus lyrics! Remember, they can be very simple. If you need a theme or idea, use the simple idea of a color like blue.

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# Listening to Music - Guided Listening, Your Community



## Overview

Musical preferences can tell you a lot about someone! Listening to the music that a friend, mentor, or family member likes is a great way to get to know them better. Remember that if somebody agrees to share favorite music with you, that can be somewhat personal or vulnerable for them. Treat it like a gift, and if their favorite music is not your favorite - you can keep that opinion to yourself and just be grateful that this person was willing to share one of their favorite things with you!

## Exploration

Ask a friend, family member, or someone else the following questions:

Who is one musician or band that you love?

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What are one or two of your favorite songs of theirs?

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What is this music important to you?

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How do you know this is the chorus of the song?

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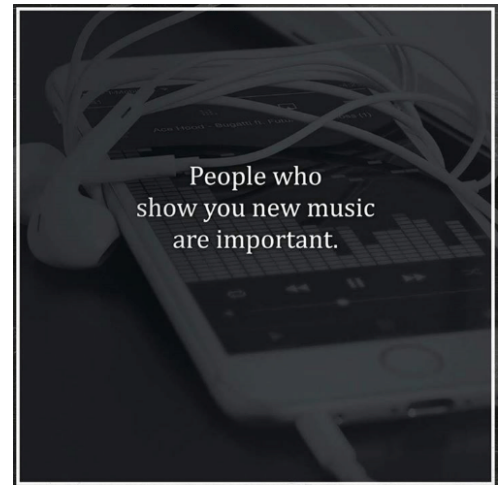
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What else did you ask them about their favorite music?

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Afterwards, listen to the song(s). What are your reactions?





# Listening to Music - Recording Studios. Page 1



## Overview

Many artists have a “dream studio” that they would love to record in. People choose the studios based on:

1. The equipment in the studio. For example, they might have certain types of vintage or current amplifiers, microphones, interfaces, synthesizers and more.
2. The physical space. Even on your phone, you would sound very different depending on where you record yourself. This has to do with the size and shape of the room as well as the materials that the floor, walls, and ceiling are made of.
3. The people. Certain audio engineers (who are the ones responsible for getting the right sounds) are based out of specific studios. They might specialize in getting certain types of sounds that artists want to utilize.
4. The history. Imagine being able to record your own music in the actual place where your favorite musician was hanging out and recording the music that inspires you!



# Listening to Music - Recording Studios. Page 2



## Exploration

- Hitsville U.S.A. (Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, The Supremes, The Jackson 5)
- Platinum (Post Malone, Lady Gaga, Justin Beiber, Shakira)
- Muscle Shoals (The Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin, Elton John, Paul Simon)
- Abbey Road (Ella Fitzgerald, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Oasis, Radiohead, Bastille, Adele)
- Sunset Sound (Beach Boys, Roberta Flack, Led Zeppelin, The Doors, Janis Joplin, Jet)
- Electric Lady (Jimi Hendrix, The Clash, Weezer, the Roots, St. Vincent)
- Capitol (Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, the Beastie Boys, the Vines, Halsey, Marshmello, Migos)
- Conway (Lorde, The Weeknd, Pharrel)

I listened to 5 songs recorded in the \_\_\_\_\_studio. Here is what I listened to (choose 5 different artists):

- 1) Artist- \_\_\_\_\_ Song- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Artist- \_\_\_\_\_ Song- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Artist- \_\_\_\_\_ Song- \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Artist- \_\_\_\_\_ Song- \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Artist- \_\_\_\_\_ Song- \_\_\_\_\_

Where was/is this studio located? \_\_\_\_\_

What years was/is it most active? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle any words below that you think describe the sound of these recordings:

- Funky      Aggressive      Pretty      Smooth      Distorted      Poppy
- Experimental      Unique      Airy      Bass-Heavy      Full
- Crisp      Dark      Grainy      Mellow      Dance-able      \_\_\_\_\_

Extension: Name two recording techniques that this studio is known for:

To learn more, visit [jamzone.littlekidsrock.org](http://jamzone.littlekidsrock.org)



# Listening to Music - Page 1

## Songwriters and Producers



### Overview

Musicians almost always collaborate with others to write, record and release their music. Two of the most common collaborations are with songwriters and producers.

**Songwriters** may write lots of songs and then send them to artists who might like to record them. Other times, they work directly with the performing artist to write a song together.

**Producers** have a complex role in the music industry. You could think of them sort of like the “head coach” of the music-making team. They might perform some or all of the following tasks (and many more!):

1. Helping the artist choose a soundscape - microphones, synthesizers, drum beats and sounds, etc.
2. Helping to “arrange” the song and put the parts in an order that will get the message across (and sell the song!)
3. Help provide an overall vision for the sound and flow of a collection of songs
4. Encouraging musicians to try different musical ideas or sounds. They may add in their own beats or instrumental recording as well!

### Exploration

#### Producers & Songwriter Ideas

-Butch Vig (Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins, Sonic Youth)

-Linda Perry (P!nk, Dolly Parton, Weezer,

-Rick Rubin (Red Hot Chili Peppers, Black Sabbath, Beastie Boys, Rage Against the Machine, Aerosmith)

-Phil Spector (The Ramones, The Beatles, The Ronettes, The Righteous Brothers)

-Quincy Jones (Michael Jackson, George Benson, Leslie Gore)

-Sylvia Massey (Melvins, Tool, Powerman 5000)

-Prince (Himself, Janelle Monae, No Doubt, Chaka Khan, Sheila E.)

-Max Martin ( N'Sync, Maroon 5, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Ariana Grande, The Weeknd)

-WondaGurl (Mariah Carey, Jay-Z, Travis Scott)

-Scott Hendricks (Brooks N Dunn, Faith Hill, Blake Shelton, Trace Adkins)







# Listening to Music - Geography and Wrap-Up



## Overview

This section is all about exploration! First choose a city. This can be your city/state, or it could be a city from anywhere in the world! Can't decide? Try: Lagos (Nigeria), Seoul (South Korea), Perth (Australia), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) or London (England).

What city did you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

Do a search to find a music magazine or blog for that region. You can try a search phrase like "music magazine Chicago." Link or list any resources you find here:

\_\_\_\_\_

Do a search to find some of the most famous musicians for this region. You can try a search phrase like "best musicians from Guatemala" or "most famous musicians from Japan." List three here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Now find a famous song by each of these musicians. Write down the title and listen to the whole song! Write a brief reaction to the song. You may choose to focus on something specific, like: instruments used, lyrics, genre, mood, etc.

Title	Reaction
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____