

## Roll the old Chariot along

*We'll roll the old Chariot along,  
We'll roll the old Chariot along,  
We'll roll the old Chariot along,  
And we'll all hang on behind.*

*A drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm,  
A drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm,  
A drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm,  
And we'll all hang on behind.*

A sea shanty written to keep all the sailors in time as they did their work around the ship. The song provides great opportunity for creating repeating patterns (ositnatos) and re-writing lyrics for the verses.

### Starter Activity

- Think about different ways in which we can travel. What kind of sounds do they make? Using your bodies and your voices try and recreate different modes of transport. For example:
  - Walking/ Jogging on the spot
  - A car speeding past 'Neeeeeeeeeyooooow'
  - A motorbike revving up 'BrrrrrrrrrrRRRRRRRRrrrrrr'

### Useful Warmups

- 'A hot air balloon ride' – take a trip with you voices on a hot air balloon ride. This warm up is great for extending breath and for helping with pitching.
- First pump the air with long 'pffff' breaths. Then using an 'oo' sound start from a low pitch and 'raise' the balloon. It's up to you how high the balloon goes but see if the whole class can match the same pitch you do. Then slide the sound back to the ground/low pitch.
- Try this several time adding more air each time and making the balloon go higher in pitch.

### Teaching Tips

- The melody and lyrics of this song are very repetitive which makes it quick and easy to learn. This means that you can make sure we can hear the words but making them really clear.
- It's good to learn the chorus to a pulse. This could be marching on the spot or tapping your lap. This way everyone with keep in time.

### Things To Look Out For

- Whilst the melody is very similar notice that the second line is slightly lower than the first and third lines. You can help show this with your hand. Hold your hand sideways out in front of you about chest height. Then on the second line move it down a step (to the bottom of your chest). On the third line move it back to its starting point. This will help the class see the change in pitch.

### Extension Activities / Cross Curricular Links

- This song leaves lots of room for creativity. In the chorus you may want to add repeating rhythm patterns or ostinatos. These could be played using body percussion sounds (claps, stamps, clicks) or using instruments.
- You could link with English by creating new lyrics for the verses. This could be taken further to link with history or other subjects. Perhaps you could sing about a day in the life of a Roman or someone living in the Amazon!

## **Glossary of Musical Terms**

Sea shanty	A type of folk song sung by sailors in order to keep in time whilst they worked on the ship. A famous Sea shanty is 'Drunken Sailor'
Ostinato	A repeating pattern which goes alongside the piece of music.
Pitch	How 'high' or 'low' a musical note is
Pulse	The main 'heartbeat' of the music which gives it its speed
Verse/Chorus	A standard structure of a song. The Chorus is the part which stays the same throughout whereas in a verse the lyrics change. Generally after each Verse there is a Chorus.

