

I walked to the end of the road

*I walked to the end of the road
And I looked in all directions:
I looked as far as my eye could see!
I see those blue skies, sunrise,
Ain't nobody there, but me.*

A popular round by Keith Morris, brimming with possibilities, positivity and a real sense of freedom. Ideal for UKS2. Published in the Big Sing book series (Sage Gateshead).

🎵 Starter Activity

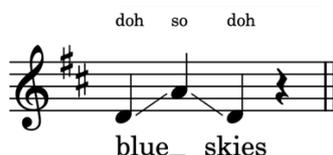
- The starter activity in this session is a rhythmic spoken chant:

Trees are green and the air is sweet,
The good earth is singing underneath my feet.
I'll point my feet down that freedom line:
Walking that road I'm feeling fine! YEAH!

- The Virtual Singing Assembly featured actions for each of these lines, which you could use exactly as demonstrated or as inspiration for your own actions.
- The most important thing is to get everyone moving and chanting with you.

🎵 Useful Warmups

- Physical – using the walk in the starter activity and the song ahead as inspiration, the physical/energising part of the warm-up featured all sorts of stretches and activation exercises familiar from P.E, e.g. knees hugs, ankle grabs, torso twists, jogging on the spot and jumping jacks/star jumps.
- Airflow – remind your singers of the fresh/sweet air of the starter activity and encourage slow, fulfilling breaths in through the nose. On the exhalation, add different sounds, e.g. ff, ss, ssh, vv, zz zzh and so on.
- Primal Sound – again referring to the sense of peace and satisfaction in the spoken chant, model a “mmm” sound and experiment with it with your singers.
- Range, Resonance and Articulation – use the words “blue skies” singing across the interval of a fifth, as shown below (and demonstrated in the video). Repeat whilst ascending through the vocal range. This prepares your singers to sing these words beautifully later on.



🎵 Teaching Tips

- The song has some great actions that can really help children learn the words more quickly, so don't be afraid to use the actions from right at the start.
- If you are singing this song with a mixed ability group – or even different year groups in a Singing Assembly – the actions also mean that the younger children (KS1) can join in with the song, even though the melody may prove a little advanced for them.

Things To Look Out For

- The notes at “I see those blue” are tricky, to spend some time isolating this section of the phrase to ensure that the notes are being picked up correctly.
- The same is true of “ain’t nobody there”. Never be afraid to isolate sections of a phrase or whole parts of a song that are more complex in order to help your singers learn them accurately.

Extension Activities / Cross Curricular Links

- Singing it as a round - although very satisfying as a unison song, this song also works fantastically as a four-part round.
- Using our imaginations - there are a number of points in the lyrics of this song that open it up to our imaginations. Use these as a launch point for some visualisation by asking the students what they see on their walk.
- Creative writing - if you wanted to take this further, the lyrics of this song make a great starting point for some creative writing about a walk.

Glossary of Musical Terms

Interval	A difference of pitch between two sounds.
Phrase	A single unit of music that makes complete sense when heard on its own, a bit like sentences. Songs are made of musical phrases.
Round	A musical composition in which a minimum of three voices sing exactly the exactly the same melody, but with each voice starting a different time. As different parts of the melody coincide in the different voices, they fit harmoniously together.

