

Bumblebee Tuna

*Yum, yum bumblebee, bumblebee tuna,
I like bumblebee, bumblebee tuna,
Yum, yum bumblebee, bumblebee tuna,
I like tuna made from bumblebees!*

A fun and engaging jazzy song. This is a great song to sing with your class, choir or singing assembly.

Starter Activity

- For the starter activity in this session, we clapped the various rhythms from Bumblebee Tuna. Varying the order and using different body parts to show the rhythms.
- This activity is great as it plants the rhythms of the song in the student's bodies.

Useful Warmups

1. Airflow – why not experiment with breath using the sounds “ff/ss/ssh” but sounded to the rhythm of the lines from the song? Check out the video to see an example in the warm-up.
2. Vocal Range – have fun sliding around your voice using a buzzy “zzz”. Make sure to explore extremes of vocal range and then the starting note will feel much easier.
3. Articulation - get ready to tackle the lyrics in the song with a tongue twister “Busy bees are buzzing by”. Repeat this across a comfortable vocal range. You can hear this in action in the warm-up in the video.

Teaching Tips

- This song is full of interesting rhythms that add to the effect of the song. Make sure to isolate these moments and check that everyone is singing the rhythm of the following correctly. Look in particular at:
 - a. The second “bumblebee” in the second line
 - b. I like tuna made from bumblebees

Things To Look Out For

- The fourth line of the song is rhythmically different and comes in quicker than the singers think so make sure to repeat this a few times and practise singing the third line into the fourth.

Extension Activities / Cross Curricular Links

1. This song is fantastic as a two, three or four-part canon. Start by singing it in unison and then build up to singing it in a canon. Ask student leaders to help you lead the different groups.
2. Ask your students to count the number of bumblebees they see in their gardens or the park.
3. Bumblebees are fascinating creatures, your students could research some facts about them.
4. Planting a sunflower is a lovely way to encourage bumblebees to visit your garden.
5. Listen to "Flight of the Bumblebee" by Rimsky-Korsakov

Musical Terms

Rhythm	Patterns of long and short sounds, many different rhythms can fit into one 'beat'
Syncopation	Occurs when a rhythmic pattern that typically occurs on strong beats or strong parts of the beat occurs instead on weak beats or weak parts of the beat
Canon	A canon tends to have several different phrases, which are sung one after the other, and then stacked at different times to create harmony

