

Mrs O'Leary

*Late last night before she went to bed
Mrs O'Leary put a lantern in the shed
And then the cow kicked it over and winked at her and said
"There'll be a hot-time in the old-town tonight"*

An action song that can be performed as a round. This is a fun song to engage your singers in the classroom or as part of your singing assembly.

Starter Activity

- Try 'The Penguin Song' as a way of getting your students to feel the pulse in the music – tapping or marching on the spot allows the singers to feel the pulse in their body.

Useful Warmups

- Use your starter activity as a springboard to your warm up! You've just performed a song about a penguin – get creative with sounds and ideas based around penguins. One example is 'Eating a fish' this has many sounds that your group can explore which will warm up their voices (Chew, Mmm etc)
- Think about the next song you are going to teach or rehearse. Does it have any features that you could introduce in the warm up? Mrs O'Leary needs clear enunciation so as a warm up you may want to try some 'rhythmic consonants' (B,C,T,S,Sh etc)

Teaching Tips

- This song has 4 phrases which can help you to break down the learning of the song. Teach the first phrase, followed by the second phrase. Then put phrases one and two together. Build up the whole song this way until your singers are feeling really confident.
- Be careful not to start this song too low. E major is a suitable key for this song which means the song starts on a G# (The 3rd degree of the major scale).

Things To Look Out For

- Once your group are feeling confident with this song it is easy for them to become over excited and sing too loudly. Try singing this song with varying dynamics (Piano – Softly)

Extension Activities / Cross Curricular Links

- History – This song has an interesting background and is based on a recounting of the past that is very likely to be inaccurate. The people of Chicago wanted somebody to blame for The Great Fire of Chicago in 1871 and many put the blame on The O'Leary farm cow shed! This song could be a fun activity within a history lesson, perhaps linking to The Great Fire of London and sparking some interesting thoughts and ideas.

Glossary of Musical Terms

Pitch	How 'high' or 'low' the musical note sounds
Rhythm	Patterns of long and short sounds, many different rhythms can fit into one 'beat'
Melody	A sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying; a tune.
Phrase	A phrase is a musical thought or sentence, which usually ends with a musical punctuation called a 'cadence'
Round	A round has several different phrases, which are sung one after the other, and then stacked at different times to create harmony
Dynamics	In music, the dynamics of a piece is the variation in loudness between notes or phrases.

