

Carnival of the Animals

Level: Primes Division

Goals: To listen to *The Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saens, and to identify the mood and character of each animal. Students will recognize that music can be used to represent different effects. Students will identify the animal's sounds being played to them.

Connection to Curriculum:

II. Literacy

A. General

- 1. Respond imaginatively to expressive quality:** Listen to musical selections and respond through movement to change in tempo, meter, dynamics and styles.
- 2. Listen Critically/Analyze works:** Distinguish between the steady pulse and rhythmic patterns of familiar songs. Recognize and identify timbre of instruments.

Materials:

The Best of Saint Saens CD.

CD player

Sequence:

1. Tell group about 'The Carnival of the Animals' and the composer Saint- Saens
Saint-Saens was very fond of animals and wrote a book about them. One year while he was on holiday, he composed some music, which he called *The Carnival of the Animals*.
2. The music is written to reflect the type of animal it is about.
3. Show a sheet with a picture of a violin, glockenspiel, xylophone, flute, clarinet, double bass, piano and a cello.
4. Lay out a list of the animals, which he wrote music for. I cut this down to the Lions, elephant, Fish, Donkeys, Birds and Fossils.
5. Ask the children which instruments they think Saint- Saens used for each animal.
6. Listen to the excerpts for these animals using *The Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saens.
7. Discuss how the music represents the different animals.
8. Identify the mood and character of each animal.
9. Discuss the musical elements used to achieve this.

Assessment:

1. Did the children recognize which instruments were being used to represent each animal?

2. Could they recognize which animal was being played when hearing the music?