

Introduction

With *Music*, pupils can really enjoy the process of revision. They make a dramatic multimedia presentation to 'teach' a part of the topic of sound to the class. Pupils write lyrics in the style of a rap to communicate the science ideas. Accompanying the rap will be an up-beat sound and image presentation, easily put together using the free trial software supplied. Called PhotoJam, it offers a range of exciting presentation styles, including 'music video', to appeal to all types of pupils. Combining words, music and rhythm, and images is a particularly memorable way to learn, and the activity can be adapted to revise any topic.

Running the activities

You need to install PhotoJam onto the hard disc of each computer being used. Then, to save downloading all the music backing tracks from the Photojam website, you can copy these from the *Only connect?* CD ROM into your version of Photojam. If you wish to use the images we have provided for *Music*, these are also provided on the CD ROM for you to copy into your version of Photojam. Alternatively you can download the backing tracks from Photojam on the Internet at www.shockwave.com.

The content of the topic sound has been divided into four 'verses', one for each section in the scheme. Give each group of pupils is one verse. Their task is to write a rap explaining the ideas (there will be more than one group writing for each verse). For the accompanying PhotoJam presentation they can choose from a range of approximately 16 images we have supplied to illustrate each verse, 100 music-backing tracks, and 10 different presentation styles. With PhotoJam, pupils can time how long each image lasts, and even add captions.

The writing part of the activity could require about 30-45 minutes. Groups can then give their PhotoJam presentations and raps.

As some schools may not have access to a set of computers, we have produced an alternative (but not quite as fun) version for a single computer (connected to a big TV screen, electronic whiteboard or projector). Here pupils are essentially writing their own words to a pre-made PhotoJam (supplied). To make this work, you need to play the PhotoJam a few times first, so pupils get the feel of the rap. Pupils then write the words, with the help of the photocopied sheet of images. They will then need an opportunity to practise rapping along in time to the PhotoJam presentation, before being ready to perform in front of the class. Pupil instruction sheets for both versions are provided.

To copy backing tracks and/or images:

Browse the *Only connect?* CD ROM and open the 'synd' folder (browsing the CD ROM is straightforward, but if you have not done this before you will need to ask for assistance). Open the main 'music' folder. Located within this are the folders 'music' and 'images'. Copy these into the 'prefs' folder where PhotoJam is installed on your computer (if prompted, say yes to 'overwrite existing files'). For PC you will find Photojam within Program Files, for MAC Photojam will be on HD.

More ideas

- Adapt this to a different topic by taking the learning outcomes from another QCA scheme of work.
- Create your own images for the PhotoJam with a digital camera (in jpeg or gif format).
- Record pupils' raps in mp3 format, and publish the PhotoJam on your school web site. You will need to pay for PhotoJam Pro to do this. PhotoJam Pro is available on the Internet at www.shockwave.com, where you can also download the free demonstration software if you have difficulties using the version provided on this CD ROM.

Please note that it is a condition of using the PhotoJam software provided on this CD ROM that you do not display the presentations outside of the school, including the Internet.

Learning outcomes

- Sound is made of vibrations
- How sound travels through media
- How the ear works
- Harmful effects of loud noise and how it can be reduced

Prior learning

None

Where the activity fits in

QCA Unit 8L Sound and Hearing

Skills

Communication, literacy (using science terms), ICT