

For brainstorming, I went through the process of coming up with ideas about both educational songs and “chill” songs and I think this thought process complemented each other although I ultimately chose an educational song, so I will include relevant pieces of brainstorming for “chill music”.

Songs that Inspire - Education

[“Ancient Mesopotamia”](#) by Mr. Nicky (teacher)

- Parody of “Crank That” by Soulja Boy.
- Enjoyable because it includes pop melody/beat and is humorous, catchy
- I positively associate this with middle school social studies- a “cool” educational song that students thought was funny
- Helped me remember the “Euphrates River” because that was a lyric that coincided with a musical motif

“Preamble to the Constitution”- Schoolhouse Rock

- Memorized this one for extra credit in middle school, I really liked it because it was fairly catchy and I tend to memorize song lyrics really well– still have this one on lock!
- Somewhat jazzy- positive vibes!
- Helps learn by providing a musical backing for a dense piece of writing
 - Makes the Constitution fun

[“Snowpants” song](#)

- Teaches little kids the order that they should put on winter clothes
- Another parody of London Bridge- simple melody, catchy, practical dance moves
- Has associated dance moves much like Head Shoulders Knees and Toes
- Was taught a variation of this in kindergarten
- Reminds me of going outside to recess in the winter as a small child
- Helps learn through simple melody, repetition, and movement

An interesting intersection I noticed is that a lot of these songs involved parody or drawing off other “pop” or classic songs. A few songs that I had been listening to a lot while I studied, that I wrote down for “chill” music vibes, included classical music and indie pop, as well as (perhaps unexpectedly) the song Doses and Mimosas by Cherub.

The long instrumentals in that song as well as the use of moody synths and percussion is both catchy and relaxing for me. I wanted to channel at least the backing synth vibes into my own piece– I didn’t want to directly parody for class but I did try to let pop songs inspire me in the hopes that my result piece would also be catchy.

Finding Your Motif

I had 2 main musical ideas, the “binary search tree” pattern (which resulted from me playing around on the piano), and a simple progression down a fifth for the verses. I think dropping a fifth worked really well for communicating the idea of a “binary”-- I shifted between 2 different notes and created a sense of “halves”/binary.

I hope the binary search tree (higher octave) riff is just catchy and fun! It makes me feel smiley because it is set higher above the music and using less of a buzzy synth like the backing chords). Was trying to balance slightly deeper musical meaning in terms of conveying a binary with also keeping it fun, catchy and easy like many of my inspiring examples.

Song Structure

There are 3 types of binary tree traversal so I knew I would have at least 3 verses.

I included a 4th orienting the listener to some basics about a binary tree.

Structure went as follows:

Intro/Chorus

Verse 1

Verse 2

Chorus

Verse 3

Verse 4

Chorus. This was ABBABBA for the most part, the verses being quite similar musically.

I chose a simple major key (C) and a basic chord progression (I-V-vi-IV)-- Repetition from structure and chord progression, and then I introduced some variety.