

5 Step Music Activities

THE PLANETS

Gutav Holst's series of descriptive pieces 'The Planets'. As well as increasing understanding planets, this resource helps understanding of how music creates atmosphere.



01 **Discuss** the planets. Can the class name all of them? What do we know about the planets?

Brainstorm ideas on the whiteboard.

02

Explain that English composer Gustav Holst wrote music about 7 of the planets, believing each one had a personality



PLANET	CHARACTER	MUSIC
Mars		
Venus		
Mercury		
Jupiter		
Saturn		
Uranus		
Neptune		

Recreate this table (left), either on a handout or by asking pupils to draw it

03

04

Listen to an extract of each planet and match to the following 'characters

- Old Age
- Mystic
- Flying Messenger
- Peace
- Joy
- Magician
- War



05

Discuss the findings of each planet. Listen to each one again and have pupils write adjectives to describe the music e.g. Loud, Trumput, Smooth