

History of the World in Seven Acts

Lesson Plan 4 Scales and scale-like passages

Allow 60 minutes for this lesson plan which includes watching the full film of *History of the World in Seven Acts* with animation.

TEACHER INSIGHT

There are 7 notes in the musical alphabet. (C D E F G A B)

When 8 or more consecutive notes are played, one after the other, (e.g. C D E F G A B C) it is called a SCALE.

Most Western music is based around MAJOR (happy sounding) and MINOR (sad sounding) scales. A 'scale-like' passage might have fewer notes, or some small leaps in it as well.

ACTIVITY 1

Watch film 6 (1 minute 35 seconds) - Tom Introduces Scales.

ACTIVITY 2

Using a *computer music programme, ask the children to write a series of notes (a melody) that move up and down consecutively.

As a contrast, try writing a melody that includes big leaps between the notes. How does that affect the sound of the music?

Answer: Scale-like melodies sound smooth. Melodies with big leaps sound more 'choppy'.

*The San Francisco Symphony music website has a free, interactive webpage -

<http://www.sfskids.org/compose/>

On the 'Compose' page, click on 'Let's Start!' and then 'Quick Start!'

Notes can be dragged onto a musical staff to create melodies.

The children can also add dynamics to make their melody change in volume (see lesson 2).

ACTIVITY 3

Watch the full performance of *History of the World in Seven Acts* with Animation