

ROYAL

COLLEGE

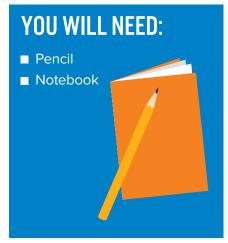
OF MUSIC

London

EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL

SING YOUR OWN SONG

Share your message about looking after the planet by putting it in a song.



WRITING WORDS (THE LYRICS)

Write some ideas in your notebook

- What is your song's theme? Is it about animals, weather, nature or recycling, for example?
- What's your message or your main idea?



Start to build your song in your notebook

- Tell a story with your song try to take your listener on a journey.
- Keep the lines short and interesting, like a poem.
- You can repeat words and ideas.
- Speak from your point of view. Also, think about the point of view of other people, places or things in your theme, and how they could fit into your song.

Verses and chorus

Your song can have verses and a chorus.

- The verses usually contain the detail and description of the story. A good length for a verse is four lines long.
- The chorus usually contains the main idea or message of the song. There is usually not much detail here – the chorus is more like a slogan on a banner.

Words, words, words

- A thesaurus can help you find words that mean the same thing. Ask at the library or use www.thesaurus.com
- A rhyming website can help you find words that rhyme: www.rhymezone.com

Write down all your ideas as a plan for your song, with verses and a chorus. But don't be afraid to change them! Keep searching for the very best words for your song lyrics.

SINGING YOUR TUNE (THE MELODY)

You have written the words (lyrics), now work on the tune (melody). Speak your lyrics out loud and try to feel the rhythm – the pattern of the words.

Then try singing the first line of the chorus. Sing whatever feels comfortable for your voice – just see what comes. Anything goes, so just try it!

TOP TIP

Try to make your verses sound different to the chorus.

- 7 Try to match the sound of the music to the feeling you want. Is it sad, uplifting, angry or happy? Or maybe something else?
- Think about taking your melody up and down in pitch. Pick out the most important words and try singing them higher or lower than the rest.
- 9 Sing what sounds good to you. Remember, this is your song, and there is no right or wrong answer!

EXTRA ACTIVITY: ADDING A BACKING TRACK

If you can, visit

www.rcm.ac.uk/sparks/digitalresources
In our Compose: Writing a Song section you can use the Track Maker, where you can add a backing track to your song!

