Where the Creatures Roam (ES1-S1)

Vocal Ease More

Accompaniment and song – how does music help us to imagine?

* [Watch a short video overview by the composer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kglfGUlzCxo&list=PL4OaBCdO34bC_HTCO3yQ1OayH6zXFJjGu&t=0s&index=12) (0:39)
* [Watch a short video overview of the teaching points](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Uq_i32yzSw&list=PL4OaBCdO34bC_HTCO3yQ1OayH6zXFJjGu&t=0s&index=11) (0:41)
* [Listen and follow the score](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DpuwpX0TN8&feature=youtu.be) (3:11)
* [Listen to the full performance](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/WheretheStrangeCreaturesRoam_perf.mp3) (3:15)
* [Listen to the backing track with spoken text](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/WheretheStrangeCreaturesRoam_bkng_withspkn.mp3) (3:11)
* [Listen to the backing track without spoken text](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/WheretheStrangeCreaturesRoam_bkng_nospkn.mp3) (3:11)
* [Access the lyric sheet](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/7bdda34e-817d-4687-8ee6-a8b3ba5f0a36/1/where-the-creatures-roam-lyric-sheet.pdf)

Background to Where the Creatures Roam

This song is about mythical creatures such as the Ninki Nanka, Yumbo and Tikoleshe that are native to different parts of Africa, just like the Bunyip is to Australia and the Loch Ness Monster is to Scotland.

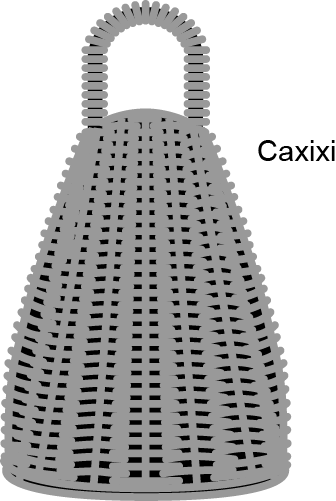
A Ninki Nanka is a legendary creature in West African folklore. Descriptions of the creature vary, but most contend that the animal is reptilian and possibly dragon-like. According to tradition, the Ninki Nanka lives in the swamps of West Africa. The animal is said to be extremely large and very dangerous.

Yumboes are a kind of fairy in the mythology of the Wolof people on Goree Island in Senegal, West Africa. They are two feet in height, a pearly white colour and have silver hair. The Yumboes live beneath the Paps Hills and come out to dance in the Moonlight.

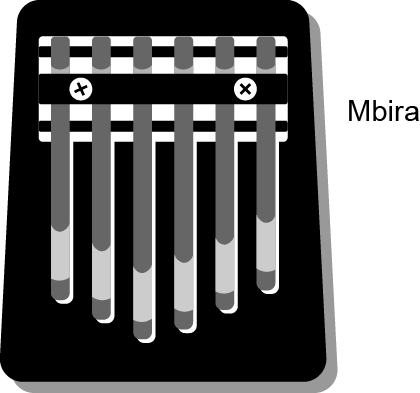
In Zulu mythology, Tikoloshe, Tokoloshe or Hili is a dwarf-like water sprite. It is considered a mischievous and evil spirit that can become invisible by drinking water. Tokoloshes are called upon by malevolent people to cause trouble for others.

At its least harmful, a tokoloshe can be used to scare children, but its power extends to causing illness and even death upon the victim.

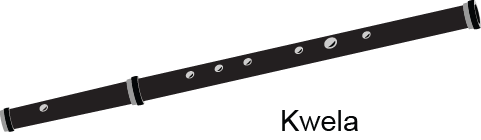
This song also uses instruments from Africa such as the caxixi, mbira and kwela.



[Caxixi sample](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/caxixi-sample.mp3) (0:20)



[Mbira sample](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/mbira-sample.mp3) (0:27)



[Kwela sample](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/kwela-sample.mp3) (0:16)

Quick start menu

1. Listen to the Where the Creatures Roam and keep the beat. Add movement to help identify the different sections of the music. Build up to the full version of the song. Perform if you wish.
2. Add instruments to represent the different sections.
3. Improvise different rhythms and explore communication using drumming.
4. Complete some extra activities exploring organising sound.

Key to icons

Concepts of music

Duration Duration

Pitch Pitch

Dynamics Dynamics

Tone colour Tone colour

Structure Structure

Learning experiences

Performing Performing

Organising sound/composition Organising sound/composition

Listen Listen

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Learning across the curriculum

| Cross-curriculum priorities | General capabilities | Other learning across the curriculum areas |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia | Critical and creative thinking  Ethical understanding  Information and communication technology capability  Intercultural understanding  Literacy  Numeracy  Personal and social capability | Civics and citizenship  Difference and diversity |

Get familiar

Outcomes and purpose

MUES1.1

MUES1.2

MUES1.4MUS1.1

MUS1.2

MUS1.4Become familiar with the song.

Identify the instruments used in the song.

Keep the beatInvestigate the tonality of the music (major versus minor).

Use movement to identify the different sections of the music.

Maintain the beat.

| Learning experiences | Activities ES1-S1 | Concepts of music |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Listen | Context – with the words displayed, listen to the song. Reflect upon where the song could be from and how we know. Discuss and explore the instruments used including the kwela, caxixi, mbira and the maracas.  Focus on the lyrics and discuss the mythical animals mentioned on the song: the Ninki Nanka, the Yumboe, the Tikoleshe. What do these songs tell us about Africa? Where is Africa? What do we traditionally know about African ‘creatures’?  Discuss mythical animals from around the world such as in Australia, the bunyip.  Reflect upon the descriptions of the African mythical animals provided within the lyrics. What do these creatures actually look like? Use these descriptions for the students create their own artwork representations of one of these mythical creatures using whichever techniques or forms are most appropriate.  How does the music help us to imagine the creatures? Explore this idea with other pieces of music such as Night on Bald Mountain or Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky. What do you imagine when you listen to these? | Tone colour |
| Performing Listen | Keep the beat – with words displayed, keep the beat whilst listening to the recording of the full song. Try this a few times with a variety of methods for beat keeping e.g. movement (such as stepping), clapping or other body percussion (such as clicking or patsching). | Duration |
| Performing Listen | Investigate the music – listen to the song and discuss the changes in the way the music sounds. The initial verses are in a minor key which is often described as sounding scared or sad. This is the [tonality of the music](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKpUBsn_jmA) (4:40). The tonality then changes to a major key for the instrumental break. Major tonality is usually considered as being happy or bright. You can also see the differences in the written notation or play them using this score. [Listen to an example of a major key](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/C-Major-sample.mp3) (0:14) then a [minor key](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/C-Minor-sample.mp3) (0:14) in these scales. Access the [score of these scales](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/033ec784-2a9e-4240-bf07-bfd751d7b5cb/1/where-the-creatures-roam-scales.pdf).  Why would the composer have used a minor key for the verses and a major key for the other sections?  Identify these differences whilst listening to the song. Then listen to a song in a major key (such as Yellow Submarine by The Beatles or Shake It Off by Taylor Swift), then a minor key (such as Mad World by Gary Jules or Stairway to Heaven by Led Zeppelin). Discuss the differences and when each type of tonality would be appropriate.  Practice singing the song through using the words and dramatizing the words. | Pitch Tone colour Structure |
| Performing | Move – listen to the song again, and investigate the changes in the structure. There are clear sections where the music changes from being sung to spoken. Create a signal for the students to demonstrate these changes through movement. For example, the students could step from side to side keeping the beat during the sung section then stand still during the spoken section. During the instrumental break they could dance freely. | Duration Structure |
| Performing Listen | Perform – sing with the complete recording of the song. Add movement as appropriate. | Pitch |

Spice it up

Outcomes and purpose

MUES1.1

MUES1.2

MUES1.4

MUS1.1

MUS1.2

MUS1.4

Explore the structure through movement.

Use drumming as a form of accompaniment and communication.

| Learning experiences | Activities ES1-S1 | Concepts of music | Watch the lesson |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Performing Listen | [Keep the beat](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5dRS3dKZyY&t=0s&index=2&list=PL4OaBCdO34bC_HTCO3yQ1OayH6zXFJjGu) – revise the song by singing and keeping the beat using some form of body percussion or movement. Repeat one of the activities previously completed.  Follow the pitch contour of the melody by moving hands according to the direction of the melody. For example, starting at the beginning of the first verse, heads, shoulders, waists, shoulders, heads and so on. | Duration Pitch Structure | [Vocal Ease More video thumbnail for spice it up, 'keep the beat' - where the wild creatures roam](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5dRS3dKZyY&t=0s&index=2&list=PL4OaBCdO34bC_HTCO3yQ1OayH6zXFJjGu)  (1:12) |
| Performing Organising sound/composition | Accompaniment – allocate the students to three different groups to match each of the three sung verses. Either determine a movement for the group or have them devise one themselves to represent the animal and mythical creature discussed in their verse.  Construct a movement sequence to match the instrumental section (bar 22) that you all perform as a class. Explore examples of [Gumboot dancing](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOjWa1a0ObY) (7:20) for possible inspiration.  Allocate the students instruments such as maracas (or make your own) to play when they are not performing their verse or to play whilst dancing during the instrumental section. | Duration Tone colour Structure |  |
| Performing Organising sound/composition | Experiment – during the spoken sections, the students could explore drumming. If drums are unavailable, use buckets or boxes. Initially the students should keep the beat. They could then explore different rhythmic ostinatos to accompany the song such as repeating the rhythm of the word ‘Africa’. | Duration Tone colour Structure |  |
| Performing Organising sound/composition | Perform – use your ostinato and movement accompaniments with the complete recording of the song. Experiment with different dynamics to enhance the arrangement. | Duration Dynamics Structure |  |
| Organising sound/composition Listen | Extend it – ask the students to choose instruments they think are appropriate to match the animals and creatures of the song. Instead of singing the words, the students could play their instruments along to the song. This way they are explore the timbre of those instruments and why instruments are chosen to achieve particular sounds. | Duration Tone colour |  |

Make it up

Outcomes and purpose

MUES1.1

MUES1.2

MUES1.4

MUS1.1

MUS1.2

MUS1.3

MUS1.4

Explore call and response as a way to organise sound

Improvise rhythms through call and response

| Learning experiences | Activities ES1-S1 | Concepts of music | Watch the lesson |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Performing Organising sound/composition Listen | Call and response – using the drums or equivalent, create a call and response. For example, start the call yourself by saying and/or playing ‘Africa where the great creatures roam’. The students could as a group then respond with the rhythm of ‘We know about the lion and the big hippo’. | Duration Structure |  |
| Performing Organising sound/composition Listen | [Improvise together](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5aICNu5CEs&list=PL4OaBCdO34bC_HTCO3yQ1OayH6zXFJjGu&t=0s&index=3) – as a class, sing the call and then altogether give different improvised response rhythms that last 8 beats. It may be beneficial to call out the beat numbers in this response. It is a way for the students to get used to hearing what 8 beats sound like as their response. This will also get the students used to experimenting with rhythm without the pressure of being on their own.  Use [the instrumental section backing track](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/dddc8dfb-b8a3-4d93-86cf-9a5001a4769d/1/WheretheStrangeCreaturesRoam_jam.mp3) (4:42) to allow students to improvise. This should allow approximately 16 rounds of improvisation of 8 beats. | Duration Structure | [Vocal Ease More video thumbnail for Make it up, 'Improvise together' - Where the wild creatures roam.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5aICNu5CEs&list=PL4OaBCdO34bC_HTCO3yQ1OayH6zXFJjGu&t=0s&index=3)  (2:09) |
| Performing Organising sound/composition Listen | Improvise in pairs – with a partner the students can think, pair, share a rhythmic response to the call. Sit in a circle. As a whole class, play a call for each pair and have them give their rhythmic response. This may take several turns until the students are able to do this without missing a beat after the call | Duration Structure |  |
| Organising sound/composition | Improvise alone – repeat the above steps by offering the call but this time the students individually provide their response.  If the students are struggling with using all these rhythms, start with just one or two rhythms and build up. Alternatively, write rhythms on cards that the students can arrange in different orders.  For example,  An example of stick notation, using characters similar to 'I', 'N' and 'Z' | Duration Structure |  |
| Performing Listen | [Extend it](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVTJSTQ-_g0&list=PL4OaBCdO34bC_HTCO3yQ1OayH6zXFJjGu&t=0s&index=4) – point out to the students that drumming was/is traditionally a form of communication amongst some traditional African peoples. The students could then in pairs have their own 'conversations' with each other using only their drums. | Duration Structure | [Vocal Ease More video thumbnail for make it up, 'Extend it' - where the wild creatures roam](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVTJSTQ-_g0&list=PL4OaBCdO34bC_HTCO3yQ1OayH6zXFJjGu&t=0s&index=4)  (3:10) |

Where to from here?

Purpose

* Using imagination to create music that reflects an idea.
* Exploring musical concepts through movement.
* Understanding why composers use specific musical concepts and their effects of their choices.

Activities ES1-S1

* Use dance to show differences in sections of the structure in this piece or in a variety of pieces.
* Identify the tonality of a song and why this tonality may have been chosen. This is particularly interesting with film music.
* Explore instrumental timbre to demonstrate different animals or characters within a text that you might read as a class or through listening to pieces such as Carnival of the Animal by Saint Saens.
* Use drumming to keep the beat and to improvise using call and response techniques.
* Explore rhythm through stick notation and drumming to introduce rhythmic sequences.
* Create a soundscape to reinforce a text, character or story.
* Create music or dances about mythical creatures.



* What is a pentatonic scale? What does pent mean? How is this pattern formed and how is it replicated in different keys? Tune bottles either to the pentatonic scale or by using bottles tuned to C major scale.
* What is the pattern that makes up a major then a minor scale? How are they different? What is the influence of mathematics here with reference to patterns and formulas? How does this translate to musical composition?
* Make tin whistles, kwelas, caxixi, mbira or maracas. Explore how they are made, the measurements required (or not) and how sound is produced. These African instruments were originally made usually locally sourced materials, including drums and the choses of materials used. What could we use in our local environment to create instruments? Research previously local-made instruments such as gum leaves and tea chest string basses.
* How do you make a monster? What is a monster, what is their purpose, why were they ever created and what would you need to create your own? Create your own monster complete with as many functions as possible/appropriate.



* Creative Arts – Visual arts: recreate the monsters/creatures referred to in the song or create own. Use either drawing, painting, collage or sculpture. Dance: Create dances about mythical creatures. Drama: through role play explore the ways these animals may behave. Dramatise the song. Use drama games such as conscience alley to explore the way mythical creatures may teach us a life lesson or solve an ethical question.
* English – explore legends, myths and folk stories from around the world. Look at translation and the meanings they share. Use the creatures within this song as the basis of a descriptive text. Replicate this for researching, discussing and writing about African animals.
* HSIE: History – examine stories and shared histories, including recalling and retelling stories of local histories. Explore the concept of fact versus fiction in personal and social traditions. Look at change and continuity such as can be seen in folk tales from other countries. Could these be used in a song? Geography – explore diversity of the world's people, places and environments. Investigate the interconnection between people and places and how cultural identities are shaped, such as in Africa. Explore the concept of migration, including how the environment influences settlement patterns. Examine the interconnection of the world's peoples by looking at diversity and different cultures around the world.