

Year 4: Music - Blackbird

Blackbird

This unit is focused around one song: **Blackbird**, by The Beatles - a song about **civil rights**.

The Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement was a struggle for **social justice** that took place mainly during the 1950s and 1960s for African Americans to gain **equal rights** under the law in the United States. There was a great deal of **discrimination** at this time against people of colour. African Americans had had more than enough of prejudice and violence against them. They, along with many other people, began to fight for **equality**.



About the lyrics, Paul McCartney said:

"I had in mind a black woman, rather than a bird. Those were the days of the civil rights movement, which all of us cared passionately about, so this was really a song from me to a black woman, experiencing these problems in the States rather than say 'Black woman living in Little Rock' (where some awful racist atrocities took place) and be very specific, she became a bird, became symbolic, so you could apply it to your particular problem."

Vocabulary

birdsong	The sounds made by birds.
character	The mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.
civil rights	Guarantees of equal social opportunities and equal protection under the law, regardless of race, religion, or other personal characteristics.
equality	Ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents.
racism	When someone is treated differently because of their race, ethnicity, nationality or colour.



British Beat Music

The Beatles had a huge influence and so Pop groups sprang up all over Britain usually writing their own songs. The Beatles helped to create a distinctly British sound called Beat Music.

Style indicators of the Beatles' music:

- British accents;
- standard song forms with a verse and a chorus - like the Pop songs we hear today;
- distinctive chord sequences and vocal harmonies;
- rhythmic guitar work;
- simple melodies;
- clever lyrics.



CRC Article 29: All children have the right to have their talents developed to the full.

