

LEARNING RESOURCE
- PRIMARY



WASO

West Australian
Symphony Orchestra

EChO the Gecko's Great Outback Adventure

Learning Resource
Primary


Wesfarmers Arts
Principal Partner

These resources are available to ticket holders of the 2022 EChO the Gecko's Great Outback Adventure concert and are not for public distribution or reproduction.

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The West Australian Symphony Orchestra respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Elders of the Indigenous Nations across Western Australia and on whose lands we work.

West Australian Symphony Orchestra



From the centre of Perth to the furthest corners of our State, every year since 1928, we set hearts racing with extraordinary music and exhilarating performances for all West Australians to share.

West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO) is a for-purpose not-for-profit company that thrives on the enthusiasm, passion and support of our entire community. We harness this energy to create events and programs across the State to stimulate learning and participation in a vibrant cultural life.

We are both fierce advocates for our great classical musical heritage and passionate leaders in the commissioning and performance of new music by leading Australian and international composers. Every year we mobilise and nurture a new generation of young and emerging artists to help secure a bright future for music in Australia.

We create the spark that sets off a lifelong love of music because we believe it has the power to *touch the soul and enrich lives*.

Our resident company of full-time professional musicians are the beating heart of our organisation. The Orchestra plays a central role in the vibrancy of our creative state, and they are also supported by hundreds of visiting artists, alongside the volunteers of the WASO Chorus, to create exceptional performances for hundreds of thousands of people each year. Our Orchestra is led by Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser Asher Fisch. Israeli-born, Fisch is an internationally renowned conductor in both the operatic and symphonic repertoire, and is a frequent guest at the world's great opera houses including La Scala, the Bayerische Staatsoper and the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

We are proud to call Perth Concert Hall home.

3 GECKOS



Lee Stanley, Mark Tooby and Josh Davies formed 3 Geckos in 2015, coming together with a passion to enrich children's lives with educational musical experiences.

Echo the Gecko made his first appearance helping to bring orchestral music to life as part of the WASO children's concerts in 2003. A few years later Mark, who performed Double Bass in the original shows collaborated with Lee to write a new show and soon after Josh (trombone) joined the team bringing his expertise as an arranger and composer.

The three friends share a common goal of producing high quality productions that captivate and enrich children's lives, demystifying and making orchestral music fun and accessible to every child from any background.

The 3 Geckos have now produced 5 shows:

- Echo the Gecko Loses his Tail
- Echo the Gecko's Great Sea Adventure
- Echo the Gecko's Great Outback Adventure
- Echo, the First Gecko in Space
- Melody Monkey finds her Song

ARTIST INFORMATION



Lee Stanley Presenter

Lee is a professional artist, working as an animateur, children's presenter and previously a freelance percussionist in London. After graduating from the Royal Academy of Music, Lee's passion for music education began to develop and in 1992 he started work as a percussion teacher for Bedfordshire Music leading to his appointment as head of Percussion, Singing, World Music and Guitar. Follow from this he was promoted to a position as Project and Community Development Manager.

Lee has taught percussion and general music in many settings including head of music at a middle school in the UK. He has run countless workshops in every setting from African Drumming to singing and Samba.

As an animateur and children's presenter, Lee is passionate about championing and demystifying the orchestra and orchestral music for young people and has worked for a variety of music organisations and orchestras in this role both in the UK and Australia.

Lee has worked as a mentor on the Certificate of Teaching (Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music) course and has run many teacher training sessions for arts education, specialising in creative workshop techniques. This has included visits to Dubai and Korea to deliver teacher training.

Throughout all his work in education, Lee has remained an active and versatile musician playing with orchestras, bands, theatre, samba bands and rock bands.

Lee has lived in Perth Western Australia for the last 9 years where he teaches percussion for the Instrumental Music Schools Service, delivers broadening units at the University of Western Australia and develops and presents children's concerts for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Lee created Echo the Gecko and his stories of adventure with the 3 Geckos to bring the orchestra to life for children and presents the shows in an exciting and animated way.

ABOUT ECHO AND THE OUTBACK ADVENTURE



What starts out as a normal day for Echo the Gecko soon turns into an epic state-wide adventure when he jumps in amongst the luggage of the family whose shed he lives in as they head for their holiday 'up north'.

Singing songs as they travel all day, Echo wanders off at a rest stop to catch some bugs and is soon fast asleep. To his horror, he wakes up to see that the car is gone and he is on his own.....

Cousin Goanna soon turns up and guides him on an adventure across the Pilbara/ Kimberly and Great Sandy Desert meeting friends, dancing in the rodeo and hitching a ride with Wendy the wedge tailed eagle who returns him safely to his cosy shed at the bottom of the garden of number 123 Alphabet lane, Cottesloe, Western Australia.

MEET THE MUSICIANS OF WASO'S EDUCATION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



Bec Gloire
Violin

Q: What is your favourite thing about being in EChO?

A: **Bec:** My favorite thing about being in EChO is being able to have fun and act like a big kid while sharing my passion of music. Having the chance to play in a small chamber ensemble with brilliant people and musicians AND being able to share it with others is the icing on the cake!



Josh Davis
Trombone

Q: What should we be listening out for in the show?

A: **Josh:** I would ask the kids to listen out for the ways the different music in the show helps to tell the story. Sadness, joy, adventure, fear and surprise are all feelings or emotions that help us to identify with the characters or situations in Outback Adventure. Most of the time we don't even know that music can have that kind of effect on us.



Nick Metcalfe
Cello

Q: What do you most enjoy about playing in EChO?

A: **Nick:** My favourite thing about EChO concerts is the close setting with the audience and the high level of interactivity. Kids are hilariously unpredictable and always keep you on your toes.

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

Introduction to the orchestra

Learning Focus: Introducing students to instruments and families of the orchestra

Activity length: 30 minutes
Suitable pre-performance

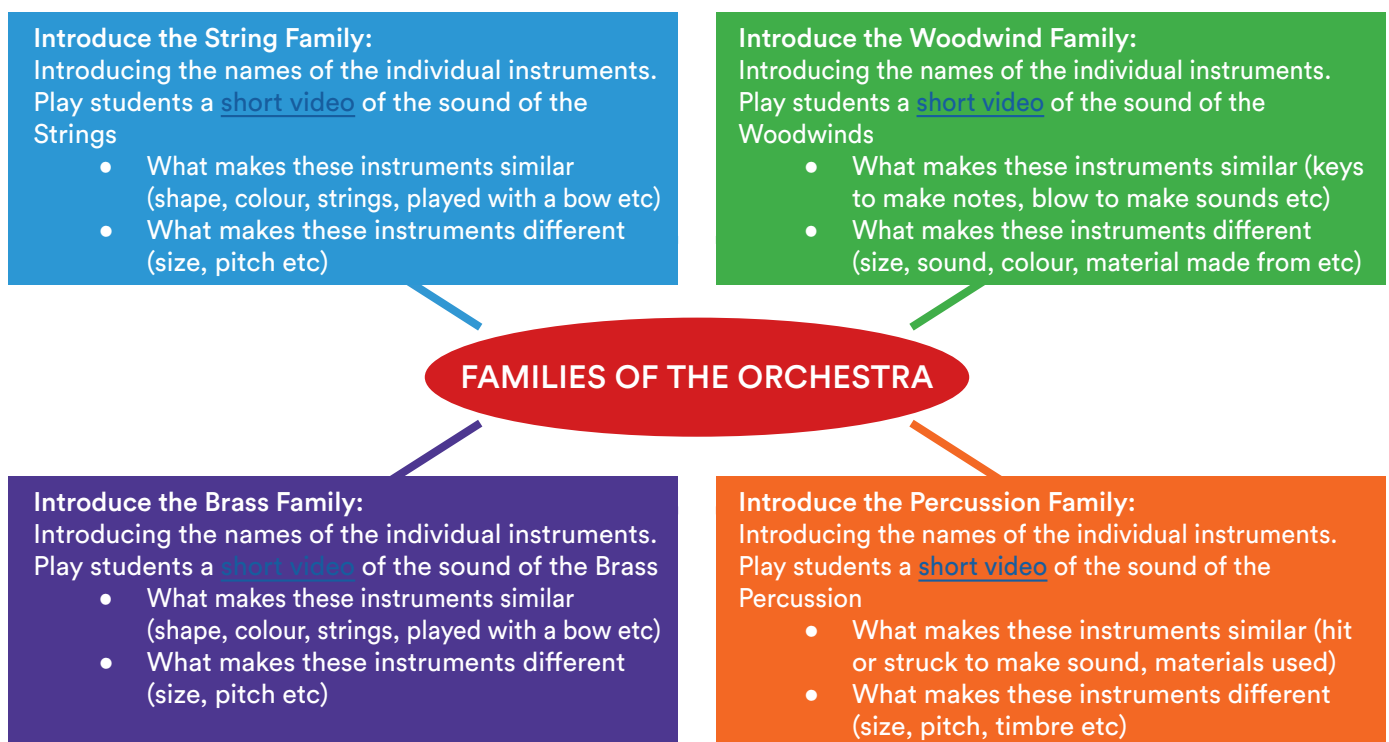
INTRODUCTION:

- Ask students ‘what makes a family’ considering the commonalities that tie a family together e.g. similar looks, connection to one another
- Tell students that this is similar in an orchestra. Instruments also belong to families, they are grouped based on the similarities they share.
- Introduce learning intention: Learning about the instruments and families of the orchestra.

LESSON CONTENT:

Split students into groups to explore the instrument families providing students with the family video and section information sheet (Appendix 2).

Ask students to think about the similarities and differences within the instrument families.



Have a class discussion regarding students’ responses to these questions for each of the instrument families.

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

Introduction to the orchestra

CONSOLIDATION:

Once students are familiar with each family, explain that these groups of instruments collaborate to play in the orchestra in the same way the students will play with their friends.

Assign a colour to each orchestra family and hand out corresponding coloured card or scarfs to your students.

Play excerpts of *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* asking students to raise their cards when they hear the family of instruments they have been assigned.

The following listening guide can be used as reference for this activity:

0.00 - 0.20:	Full Orchestra (all students cards shown)
0.24 - 0.42:	Woodwinds
0.49 - 1.04:	Brass
1.08 - 1.25:	Strings
1.27 - 1.40:	Percussion
1.44 - 2.02:	Full Orchestra (all students cards shown)

Ask students why they raised their card at particular times.

EXTENSION:

Ask students to complete WASO's instrument family worksheets (pages 12-16)

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

Djinda Djinda

Learning Focus: Introducing students to Twinkle twinkle sung in Noongar

Activity length: 25-30 minutes
Suitable pre-performance

INTRODUCTION:

- Explain to students that they are going to learn about *Twinkle twinkle little star* sung in Noongar Language

LESSON CONTENT:

As a class discuss that during the performance the students will have the chance to join the in with the WASO Musicians singing this song.

Play students the video of the song available [here](#).

Print the prepared sheets for your students available [here](#) on Page 3 of the booklet.

Once students have learnt the song, split into two groups and ask them to sing in a round.

The resources for teaching Twinkle Twinkle in Noongar have been drawn from the Community Arts Network's Lullabies Project. Background to the project and process as well as further information to introduce the content to your class can be found [here](#).

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

Post-Concert Reflection

Learning Focus: Reflecting on our experience at WASO's concert

Activity length: 15 minutes
Suitable post-performance

INTRODUCTION:

Remind students that they have recently attended the WASO Education Concert of *EChO the Gecko's Great Outback Adventure*.

LESSON CONTENT:

Ask students to complete the following reflective question in their workbooks or use the WASO Concert Reflections worksheet (page 18-19)

What did you enjoy most about the WASO Concert?

What did you learn when you saw WASO play in your school?

What would you have liked to learn more about in the concert?

What did you find most interesting at the concert?

As a class, ask students to share some of their reflections and write these on the board. Collate students remaining questions that WASO can answer and send these to shakespearer@waso.com.au - we'll do our best to get you some answers!

EXTENSION:

- For older students, ask them to work in groups or individually create a PowerPoint to share their reflections and present their ideas to the class.
- Ask students to think about their experience and write a review of the concert as though they are a music journalist.

Appendix 1

Worksheets

ECHO THE GECKO'S GREAT OUTBACK ADVENTURE Introduction to the Orchestra - Information Sheet

A Symphony Orchestra, like the **West Australian Symphony Orchestra**, is a large group of musicians who play different instruments together.

The instruments in an orchestra all belong to different **families**. The instruments in each different family all have things in common like how they make sound, the materials they are made from, how you play them and what they sound like when you listen to them.

There are four different instrument families in the orchestra

Do you remember the names of these instrument families?

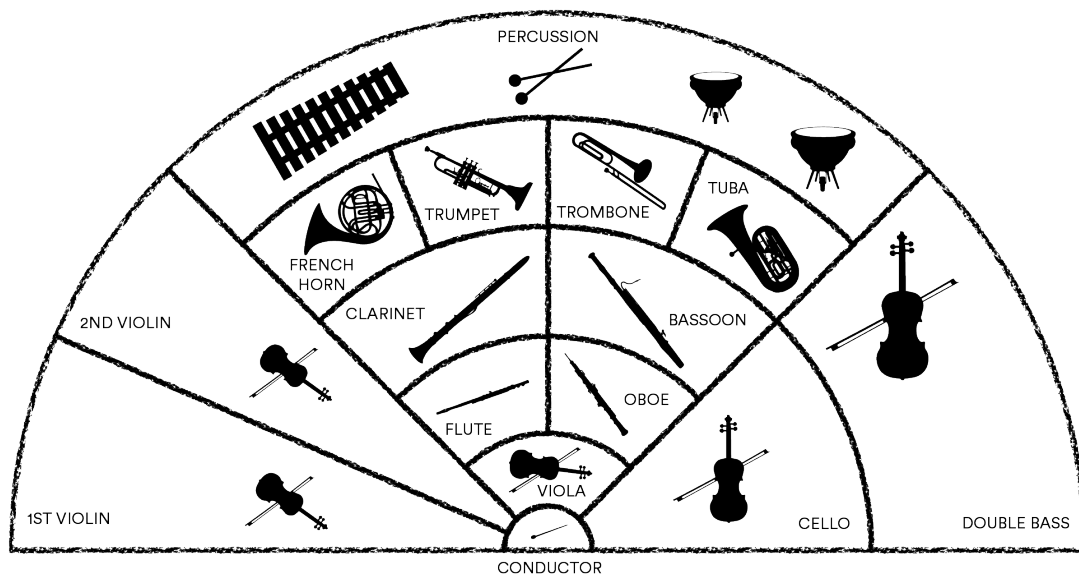
STRINGS

WOODWIND

BRASS

PERCUSSION

Now let's see where these families sit when a symphony orchestra plays together:



Find the instruments in the family that are made of wood that you play with a bow, colour these in **Blue**. These instruments sit at the front of the orchestra.

Find the instruments that you blow to make sound and are made of wood or metal. These instruments sit behind the Strings section, colour the instruments of this family in **Green**.

Find the instruments that sit at the back of the orchestra, are made of metal and you blow into to make sound. Colour the instruments of this family in **Purple**.

Finally, find the instruments that you have to hit or strike to make a sound. They sit at the very back of the orchestra on the left. Colour the instruments of this family in **Orange**.

ECHO THE GECKO'S GREAT OUTBACK ADVENTURE Woodwind Worksheet

The four instruments in the Woodwind family are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The highest instrument in the Woodwind family is the_____.

The lowest instrument in the Woodwind family is the_____.

My favourite instrument in this section was the_____.

Describe the sound of this instrument using three describing words (adjectives),

Describe the sound when all of the Woodwinds played together using three describing words (adjectives)

The sound of the Woodwinds made me think of

ECHO THE GECKO'S GREAT OUTBACK ADVENTURE Brass Worksheet

The four instruments in the Brass family are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The highest instrument in the Brass family is the _____.

The lowest instrument in the Brass family is the _____.

My favourite instrument in this section was the _____.

Describe the sound of this instrument using three describing words (adjectives),

Describe the sound when all of the Brass played together using three describing words (adjectives)

The sound of the Brass made me think of

ECHO THE GECKO'S GREAT OUTBACK ADVENTURE Percussion Worksheet

The four instruments in the Percussion family are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

My favourite instrument in this section was the _____.

Describe the sound of this instrument using three describing words (adjectives),

Describe the sound when all of the Percussion played together using three describing words (adjectives)

The sound of the Percussion made me think of

ECHO THE GECKO'S GREAT OUTBACK ADVENTURE Strings Worksheet

The four instruments in the Strings family are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The special instrument in the Strings family is the _____.

My favourite instrument in this section was the _____.

Describe the sound of this instrument using three describing words (adjectives),

Describe the sound when all of the Strings played together using three describing words (adjectives)

The sound of the Strings made me think of

ECHO THE GECKO'S GREAT OUTBACK ADVENTURE Concert Reflections worksheet

We hope you enjoyed WASO's Education Chamber Orchestra visiting your school with *EChO the Gecko's Great Outback Adventure*.

Take some time to think about your experience.

What did you enjoy most about the concert?

What did you learn about when you saw WASO?

ECHO THE GECKO'S GREAT OUTBACK ADVENTURE Concert Reflections worksheet

What did you find most interesting about the concert?

What burning questions do you still have for the orchestra?

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West Australian
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