

Key concepts

- Chinese New Year is celebrated with music, including upbeat and happy songs and those wishing people prosperity.
- Many pieces of music will end with a 'crescendo'.
- Features of a piece of music include: timbre, dynamics, tempo, duration.
- A 'Pentatonic Scale' consists of five notes.
- Layered melodies form part of music's texture.

A 'pentatonic melody' can be recorded on a grid.

Pentatonic Melody Grid Support

C	D	C	D	E	G	A	G



Key Vocabulary

crescendo	The loudest point reached in a gradually increasing sound.
tempo	Refers to the speed of the music.
dynamics	Describes how loud or quiet music is (volume).
timbre	The character or quality of a musical sound or voice.
duration	The length of time a pitch, or tone, is sounded.
Pentatonic Scale	A musical scale with five notes per octave.
texture	Made up of layers within music.

Musical Texture

In music, texture is how the melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic materials are combined in a composition. The thickness of the texture will depend on the number of layers.

Texture can be categorised as follows:

Monophonic

Music has only one melodic line, with no harmony or counterpoint, such as a person whistling a tune.

Homophony

Has one clearly melodic line, with all other parts providing accompaniment, for example choral music.

Polyphonic

If more than one independent melody is occurring at the same time, the music is polyphonic, such as singing in a round.

Heterophonic

Heterophonic texture is rare in Western music. In heterophony, there is only one melody, but different variations of it are being sung or played at the same time.

Things to do at home

Look on www.kidrex.com

Watch some Chinese New year celebrations.
Listen to the kinds of music that is played.

