



Image: A Little Music, watercolour by Edward Lawton Moss. SPRI Art Collection, Y: 54/13/45.

A LITTLE MUSIC

This small watercolour called 'A Little Music' was painted by Edward Lawton Moss. He was the staff surgeon aboard the HMS *Alert* during the British Arctic Expedition of 1875-76. Throughout the expedition Moss painted what he saw happening around him. We have 49 of his watercolours and 7 pen drawings.

The painting is fairly small, only measuring 205mm by 165mm.

DID YOU KNOW?

On the back of the painting, Moss wrote:

"I should have represented the ship rolling - for she was rarely out of a full wind, and when she was the sea had not time to go down before we were in another - Rolling or not however the men often went in for a little music. The big drum worked by our talented and energetic ship's cook generally came in a long way ahead. There is good reason to believe that up to the present time nobody else ever plays the same instrument twice ..."

In 1917, Shackleton recalled Tom Crean's tuneless singing at the tiller: "He always sang while he was steering, and nobody ever discovered what the song was, it was devoid of tune and...monotonous... yet somehow it was cheerful".

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR HOME SCHOOLING

A Little Music: *find out more at www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum*



BACKGROUND	ACTIVITY IDEA	RESOURCES	CURRICULUM LINKS
Music was really important on expeditions as it helped to raise morale and could be used to help with exercise.	Try exercising to music, which music works best for you? Why? Take your pulse before and after your exercise. What is the difference? Why do you think there is a difference?	Online exercise classes for children (there are lots at the moment!) Music, playlist, radio	PE: exercise, dance SCIENCE: human biology, pulse MUSIC: rhythm, beat
The barrel organ in our museum spent 6 years on board a ship in the Arctic. It has 40 tunes on it including songs, religious music, ceremonial music and dance music.	Music can change how we feel. Think about the different feelings that a person might experience. Try matching some music to each emotion. Which music could you use to change how someone is feeling? Imagine that you are setting off on a polar expedition. What sort of feelings might you experience on your expedition? What music would be on your polar playlist?	Listen to clips of the barrel organ in our short film: www.bit.ly/PM-barrel-organ	LITERACY: lists, writing MUSIC: listening, appreciation PSHE: feelings, emotional awareness
On expeditions people often made up new words to familiar tunes. The lyrics reflected their experiences. These songs were used to encourage each other and keep themselves cheerful.	Think of a well known song with a good beat. Now change the lyrics to cheerful ones that would encourage you and your family. Make sure that the new words fit the tune (this can be quite tricky!) Now write up your new lyrics and illustrate them.	Choose a favourite song. You might want to look the original lyrics up online Paper, pencil, colouring equipment	LITERACY: syllables, rhyming words, poetry writing, Handwriting ART: illustration MUSIC: singing, performance
To entertain themselves during the long winters, these songs were often performed. Accompaniment was added with whatever was to hand.	Teach your song to someone else. Think about the rhythm/s and beat. Using what you have in the house, add some accompaniment - maybe even some beat boxing? You could put on a performance.	A Little Music painting: www.bit.ly/PM-a-little-music	MUSIC: percussion, beat, tempo, singing, performance SCIENCE: sound
To play the barrel organ a handle is turned. This then turns cogs which spin a cylinder. The sound is produced by a comb like of piece of metal 'pinging' the pins on the cylinder.	Look at things around the house, with moving parts. Are there any similarities? Which are the most complicated/simple? Design and make your own moving model. It could be from a construction kit or bits of packaging.	Cardboard packaging, glue, tape, scissors, colouring equipment, Lego, construction toys Short film introducing barrel organ: www.bit.ly/PM-barrel-organ	DT: problem solving, design, make, evaluate SCIENCE: moving , pulleys, gears MATHS: measurement