

# Songs of the First World War



twinkl

# Music During the First World War

**Music during the First World War was incredibly important.**

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Songs were written to boost morale and to help people cope with the emotional strain of the war.

There were no radios during this time so these songs would have been first heard through performances in music halls. People would flock to theatres to hear the latest songs and for an evening of escapism.

**Instead of CDs, people would buy sheet music.**

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Pianos would be hired and found in most pubs and in some homes. People could gather around a piano, play their favourite songs and sing together.



**Next**

**Listen to the songs that were played during the First World War.**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsynSgeo\\_Uo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsynSgeo_Uo)**



## **Task 1**

- 1. Why do you think music was important in the First World War?**
- 2. Explain how the music might make the soldiers feel, especially when they are in the trenches and far away from home.**
- 3. What are the differences between how music was used in WW1 and how we use music today?**
- 3. How did the music make you feel? Explain your reasons.**

## Tuesday - vocabulary

Today we are going to look at a poem from yesterday .

Up to mighty London  
Came an Irishman one day.  
As the streets are paved with gold  
Sure, everyone was happy,  
Singing songs of Piccadilly,  
Strand and Leicester Square,  
Till Paddy got excited,  
Then he shouted to them there:

### Chorus

It's a long way to Tipperary,  
It's a long way to go.  
It's a long way to Tipperary,  
To the sweetest girl I know!  
Goodbye, Piccadilly,  
Farewell, Leicester Square!  
It's a long long way to Tipperary,  
But my heart's right there.

#### Did You Know...?

Despite being composed first, this song is very similar to 'Pack up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag' - the two are often sung together.

This song was apparently written in a single day as part of a bet. By the end of 1914, 10,000 copies of the sheet music were being sold every day.

## **Vocabulary**

**Model/ teach.**

- 1. Find 2 phrases in the poem that show that that London was an exciting place to be.**
- 2. What does the phrase 'my hearts right there' tell us about the man in the song?**
- 3. Give the meaning of the word 'compose' in this sentence.**

## **Independent work**

- 1. Find 2 words in the poem that show that that the Irishman was pleased to be in London.**
- 2. What does the phrase 'to the sweetest girl I know' tell us about the girl in the song?**
- 3. Give the meaning of the words 'sheet music' in this sentence.**

## Wednesday – Retrieval

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## Retrieval

### Model/ share

1. Circle the correct option

- a. the streets were paved with green
- b. they were singing songs in Piccadilly, Strand and Leicester Square.
- c. the man came from Iceland.

2. How many copies of the sheet music were sold each day by the end of 1914?

3. Which song was written first It's a long way to Tipperary or Pack up your troubles?

## Independent work

1. Circle the correct option

a. the three songs were sung together.

b. the song took a week to write.

c. It's a long way to Tipperary was written first.

2. What did Paddy do when he saw the other people?

3. List the places that are mentioned in the song.

## Friday - inference

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## **Inference.**

**Model/ share.**

**1. What does the song tell us about London at this time?**

**2. How does Paddy feel about Tipperary? How do you know?**

**3. Why do you think this song played an important part in the war? How would it make people feel?**