

Aim: to create a dance that expresses the flight of a red kite

Learning objectives:

- To recognise how sounds are used to achieve particular effects
- To respond to the changing character and mood of music
- To compose and control movements, practising and refining them to improve performance

Resources

Extract from *The Kite's Tale* by Roger Lovegrove (below)

Suitable music, or musical instruments

Benjamin Britten – *Four C interludes – Dawn*

Pierre Belmonde – *Light of Experience*

Igor Stravinsky – Extracts from *The Firebird – The Dance of the Princesses*

I Believe I Can Fly – 1997 pop song by R Kelly

Albatross – pop song by Fleetwood Mac

What to do

- Read the extract from *The Kite's Tale* to the children and ask for their response to it. This is a descriptive account of the way a kite flies.
- Choose a piece of music that will represent the flight of a kite (or the children could make up their own music). Ask the children to listen carefully to the different instruments and how the music changes. Can they identify the different sounds (instruments)? What mood does the music communicate?
- Ask the children to create a dance that expresses the flight of the red kite and practise it to perform to the rest of the class.
- Ask them to comment on their own and others' routines.

Extension activity

Perform the dances in assembly, along with associated work on red kites – eg poetry, pictures

Excerpt from *A Kite's Tale*

'Much of the time it spends in soaring, often for long periods, high above the valleys in which it lives. It rises in loose, widening circles with set wings and a silhouette which is very distinctive – wing held slightly forward, angled and gently arched.

'It will circle, gradually gaining height and all the time balancing, steering and adjusting its position by the ceaseless twisting of its tail: no bird uses its tail more in flight than does the kite; no bird is more ethereal on the wing, drifting and floating with the gossamer lightness of blown thistle-down.'

Roger Lovegrove *The Kite's Tale*