

‘Chidiya’ Teaching Pack

This simple song is used across the Hindi speaking areas of Northern India as a way of teaching counting with young children. Many traditions have similar songs such as ‘Ten Green Bottles’, an English teaching song. These songs are often never written down, but passed from teacher to teacher in an oral tradition.

On the World Voice Songbook you will find a Performance Video and Pronunciation Video to help you learn the words and melody.

Teaching the Song

You might want to start by choosing some key words and phrases to introduce the song.

- Say and clap the word ‘Chidiya’
- Say the Hindi numbers ‘ek’ (one), ‘do’ (two), ‘teen’ (three), ‘chaar’ (four) and ‘panch’ (five) using hand signals to help remember the words
- Use call and response to practice singing the chorus:

Teacher: Chidiya, Chidiya, Udti Ja

Pupils: Chidiya, Chidiya, khushi se ga

Start slowly introducing the beginning of the phrase and asking children to complete it, for example:

Before tackling the verses, you may want to pick out some key words and practice their pronunciation. You could match each one to an action, for example:

- Chala rahi thi Kaar (driving a car) – mime using a steering wheel
- Haath munh dho (wash your hands and faces) – mime washing hands and face

Again, split up the lines of verse one by one asking children to say them back to you. You can use the pronunciation video to help you learn to say the words correctly. When children are confident, sing the song line by line, or use the video to teach the verses. Go slowly at first as there are lots of words to fit in

Cross-curricular Links

Singing is a great way to explore the cultures and history of a country. You could:

- Finding Northern India on the map
- Create a musical composition using bird sounds (this could also be done using recording equipment and a simple sequencer)
- If you have a Hindi speaker in class they could help compose verses up to ten little birds
- Use the song to help with counting up and down to five for younger children
- Write a story about the adventures of a little bird – where do they fly? What do they see? Who do they meet?
- Create a dance based on the birds and their actions.
- Learn to say 'hello' in some of the many Indian languages

The World Voice Songbook also features the beautiful song 'Morni' from the Himachal Pradesh region. The song tracks the story of a young girl who complains to her mother that a peacock's crying is keeping her awake. After disagreeing with an idea to shoot the peacock, she decides to capture it instead and house it in a cage. As both songs are about birds, they would work well together as part of a performance and offer great opportunities for creative exploration through drama and dance.

