

Marching Bands

Activity Sheet

Produced by the Londonderry Bands Forum
in Partnership with Derry City Council.



The Londonderry Bands Forum

The Bands Forum was set up in 2010. It brings together members of bands from across the city to talk about and make progress on issues that interest them. It recognised that marching bands are often shown in bad light in the media. Much of the good work they do is not so well known. Often people see bands as political instead of musical or a cultural tradition. Many people see a 'stereotype' rather than the bigger picture when they think

about marching bands. The bands forum is happy to work with everyone to help them understand the culture better.

In Northern Ireland there is also a Confederation of Ulster Bands which includes about 17 other bands forums and represents approximately 435 bands out of 660 marching bands across the 9 counties of Ulster. This is expanding all the time.

Bands

There are many different kinds of bands – and many different opinions on them too!

Activity 1: First Thoughts

What do you think of immediately when you first think of marching bands?
What is your first reaction when you look at the photos below?
Write some words or phrases in the thinking bubbles below - and be honest!



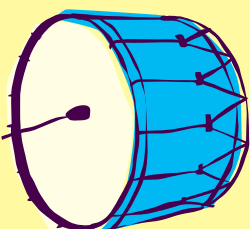
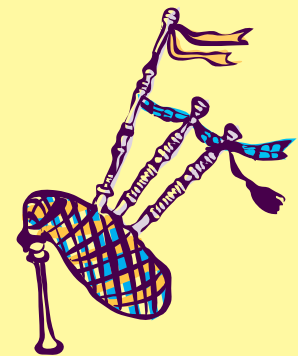
Activity 2: What makes us think the way we do?

As a group talk about your first reactions to marching bands.
Do you think everyone thinks the same as you?
What would give some people a good view of bands?
What would give some people a bad view of bands?



Activity 3: Label the instruments

Look at the pictures below and write what instrument you think it is.
All these instruments are used in marching bands here.



Activity 4: What do you know about marching bands? Circle the right answer

1. Marching bands only exist in Northern Ireland
2. All local marching bands are Protestant
3. Many band tunes are similar to Irish Traditional music
4. Most marching bands are flute bands
5. You have to be in the Orange Order to be in many bands
6. Londonderry flute bands played in the All Ireland Fleadh
7. Bands are paid to march at parades
8. Ireland has the highest percentage of flute players in the world
9. Frenchman Napoleon Bonaparte used fife and drum bands
10. Marching bands started here during 'The Troubles'
11. Ireland's oldest flute band is from Drumahoe
12. Marching bands in Ireland mainly first came from Protestant people
13. Marching bands first developed to stop people drinking beer
14. Band parades help bands to raise money to teach music
15. Marching bands are only for people starting to learn music
16. Only piping and accordion bands play in competitions
17. Marching bands do a lot of charity and community work
18. Bands work and music teaching is done by volunteers
19. Musicians in bands with different religions work together
20. A 'tattoo' is something that many bands play at
21. Young people in bands attend regular music practices

True	False
True	False
True	False
True	False
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When everyone has finished their answers, find out the right answers and talk about anything which surprised you or you didn't know.

Parades

Bands parades are held throughout the year, but mainly spring and summer. Sometimes these are community events, competitions or marking historical dates or religious dates and commemorations like the Battle of the Somme or the Easter Rising. The biggest parades each year are organised by the Orange Order, the Apprentice Boys and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

'The Twelfth'

Parades have been held on 12th July since 1796! They commemorate the Battle of Aughrim and The Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Although the battles were in Ireland, they were fighting about who should be king of England!

Protestant King William (or 'King Billy,' who was actually Dutch) beat Catholic King James II of England (his father-in-law and uncle). This meant Protestant people in Ireland, loyal to England, felt safe to stay here and were happy religious freedom was won.

'The Relief of Derry' and 'Lundy's Day'

The Apprentice Boys of Derry hold two main parades. The Saturday nearest the 12th August commemorates the 'Relief of Derry' when the 105 day siege of the city ended. The parade is now part of the Maiden City Festival. The first Saturday in December is the 'Shutting of the Gates' parade or 'Lundy's Day'. It remembers the young apprentices who locked the city gates to stop King James' soldiers entering the city. An effigy of Lundy is burned at the end of this parade as he is seen as a traitor who wanted to surrender the city.

'Feast of the Assumption' (15th Aug)

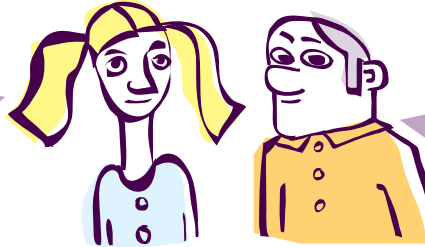
The Ancient Order of Hibernians commemorates this religious date which relates to the Catholic teaching that Mary, the

mother of Jesus, was physically taken up to heaven at the end of her earthly life. The date marks the main parade of the AOH and would have about 5000 marchers and 30 bands.

Activity 5: The Big Debate

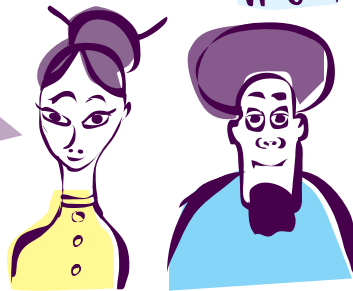
People have different views on parades. Discuss your views on the opinions below.

Yes there is a right to freedom of movement and culture – but I think parades shouldn't be allowed in some areas.



There should be a code of conduct or rules about how bands, spectators and protesters behave at parades.

In other parts of the world parades attract tourism, jobs and money into their area. They could do the same here!



In my view parades are a political thing – they aren't really about culture or music!

Activity 6: Wordsearch

A	C	C	O	R	D	I	O	N
Y	T	E	R	U	T	L	U	C
T	S	E	P	I	P	G	A	B
I	U	B	I	N	A	C	M	I
T	E	B	A	M	R	T	U	E
N	O	S	A	N	A	R	S	T
E	L	Q	R	P	D	P	I	U
D	R	U	M	W	E	F	C	L
I	T	C	E	P	S	E	R	F
N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T

Find these words:

Band	Flute
Music	Drum
Culture	Bagpipes
Parades	Tuba
Respect	Identity
Accordion	Tradition

Activity 7: Write one thing here which you learnt today: →

Activity 4 Answers True:3,4,6,7,8,9,11,14,17,18,19,20,21. False:1,2,5,10,12,13,15,16.

For further information on the Londonderry Bands Forum please contact: Derek Moore Derek@stcolumbsparkhouse.org
For further information on Derry City Council's Good Relations work please see: www.derrycity.gov.uk/goodrelations
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