

Mapping a Song (Melodic Contour)

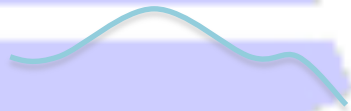
STEP 1. Begin with a well-known song such as “Grandma Moses”, which will be used here as an example.

After singing the first phrase, ask students to think of when the melody goes up and when it goes down and to draw the shape in the air.

Then, either the teacher (with student input) or a student, draws a contoured line in the same melodic shape of the phrase on the board, whiteboard, or chart paper.

This might look like:

Grand - ma - Mo - ses



This continues until parts of the song to be mapped are completed with a contoured line. In this song you may want to map only the sung parts, or in another case, maybe you could isolate a particular piece of text or a specific melodic interval.

STEP 2. The next step of mapping is to use straight short lines to indicate each note. This might look like:

Grand - ma - Mo - ses



STEP 3. The final step of mapping a song would be to do as in step 2, however, add duration to the lines.

Turn a - round



Mapping of pitch (high/low) and duration (long/short) can be applied to any sequence of sounds, not just a song. Mapping can be used when listening to an instrument or any other sounds.