

# UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF THE NUTCRACKER

Discover Classroom Resources Available on  
Musicplay Online with Stacy Werner

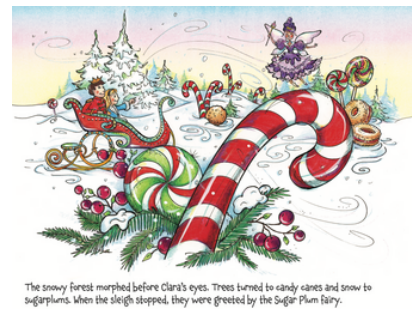
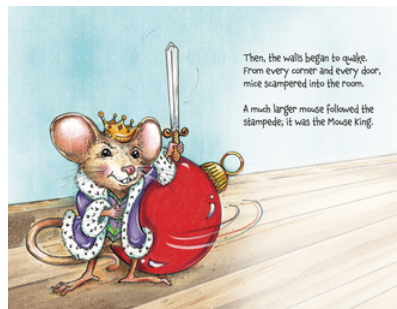


## HISTORY OF THE NUTCRACKER:

- The Nutcracker has its origins in a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, titled "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," published in 1816. Hoffmann's tale features a young girl named Clara, who receives a nutcracker doll that comes to life and battles the evil Mouse King.
- In 1892, Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky adapted Hoffmann's story into a ballet, with choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. The premiere took place at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, but it received a lukewarm reception initially.
- The Nutcracker became a beloved holiday tradition, especially in the United States, thanks to its enchanting music—like the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"—and vibrant choreography. Today, it is one of the most performed ballets, celebrated for capturing the magic of the holiday season and the wonder of childhood.

## NEW! DIGITAL STORYBOOK:

Musicplay is thrilled to announce the release of our new digital storybook, "The Nutcracker"! This edition features vibrant new graphics and incorporates some of the iconic music that brings the story to life.



## CHINESE DANCE



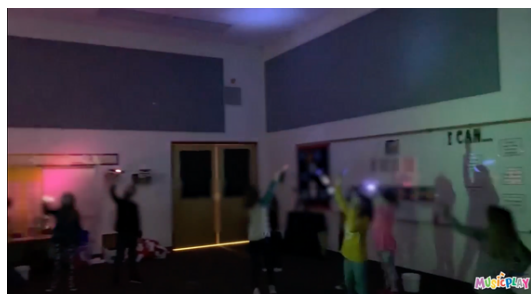
1. Listening Map
2. Listening Log
3. Movement Game
4. Rhythm Playalong 1
5. Rhythm Playalong 2
6. Rhythm Playalong Body Percussion
7. Paper Plate Routine

## DANCE OF THE SUGARPLUM FAIRY



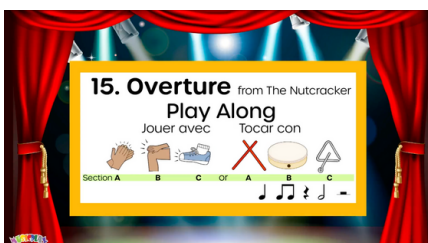
1. Listening Map
2. Paper Plate Routine
3. Listening Glyph
4. Rhythm Playalong
5. Compare/Contrast 1 and 2
6. Rhythm Playalong Body Percussion
7. Paper Plate Routine

## DANCE OF THE MIRITONS



1. Listening Log
2. Rhythm Playalong 1
3. Rhythm Playalong 2
4. Flashlight Routine

## MINATURE OVERTURE



1. Listening Log
2. Rhythm Playalong 1
3. Rhythm Playalong 2
4. Rhythm Playalong 3

## TREPAK



1. Listening Log
2. Rhythm Playalong 1
3. Rhythm Playalong 2
4. Scarves Movement

## WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS

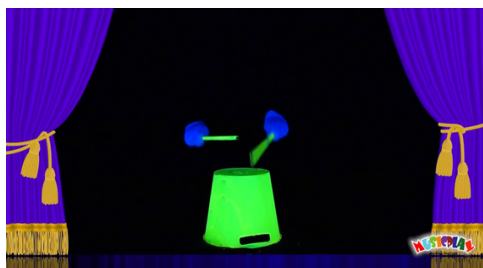
**Waltz of the Flowers from the Nutcracker**  
Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Directions: As you listen, think about the music and try to answer as many of the questions as you can. When the selection ends, discuss your answers.

1. What instrument families do you hear? Strings  Brass  Woodwind  Percussion
2. What instruments do you hear?
3. What is the tempo of the music? slow  very fast
4. Is the music quiet or loud? (Dynamics) very quiet  very loud
5. Is the music smooth and flowing or separated and detached? smooth  separated
6. Describe the mood of the piece.
7. How does this music make you feel?

1. Listening Log
2. Plate Routine

## MARCH



1. Bucket Drum Playalong (ABACABA)
2. Form Tool

A

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# B

# C

## EXTRA RESOURCES:



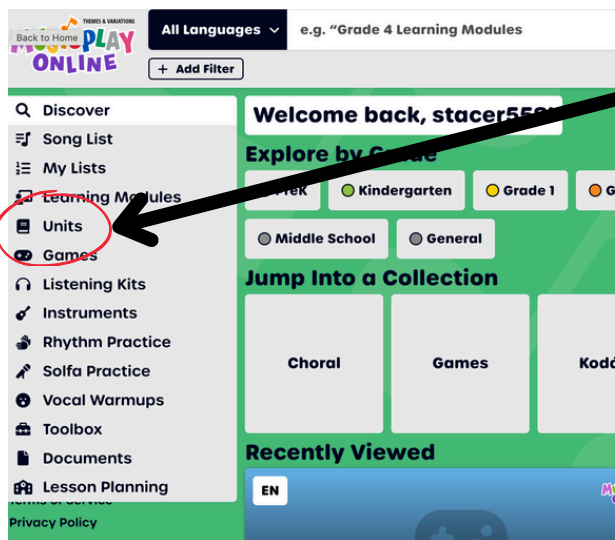
Storybook  
Colouring Pages



Ballet Videos

Listening Logs  
(multi-grade options)

## WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS:



Select UNITS on the left-hand menu of the Musicplay homepage.

Scroll down and select  
NUTCRACKER

EN	Note Values	Theory
EN	November 11th	Festivals & Holid
EN	Nutcracker	Listening Units
EN	One Planet	Programs & Mus
EN	Opera	Listening Units
EN	Orange Shirt Day	Festivals & Holid
EN	Orff Directory	Orff

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