



Ideographs

In **ideographs**, symbols or pictures are used to represent phrases or chunks of a song. Identical phrases or chunks of a song are represented with identical symbols or pictures. For example:

Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

 Here we go round  the mulberry bush,  the mulberry bush,  the mulberry bush,

 Here we go round  the mulberry bush  so early in the morning.

As we study the music more closely, however, we realize that the “mulberry bush” chunks of music are alike but different. For example the words and rhythmic patterns of all four “mulberry bush” patterns are identical but they vary melodically. You may want to devise an addition to or subtraction from the first “mulberry bush” symbol to show the other phrases are the same but different. For example for the “mulberry bush” phrases:



This could be a worthwhile lesson plan to have your students help figure out what likeness and differences occur in this song. See below.

Why and How Ideographs Are Used in Education

- To show form in music as displayed in paragraph one of this document.
- To study repetition, contrast and similarities in music.
 Again using the song, “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush.”

- "What do you notice about the two phrases 'Here we go round'?" They are identical.
- "What about the 'mulberry bush' phrases?" They are alike in rhythm and words but different melodically.
- "What about 'so early in the morning'?" It is different than any other phrase in the song.

Hearing the likenesses and differences between the chunks of music can be facilitated by putting the phrases/chunks **not** being studied in your [inner hearing](#).

- To provide reading experiences. Ex.
 "How would you sing the song if you saw these patterns?" Again using the song, "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" and the symbols from above.



- To create new arrangements like the one presented above. The students can make their own arrangements and perform them for the class.

For another idea see [This Old Man Gets a Valentine](#) written by Tomi Kent.

Bibliography

Bennett P.D. & Bartholomew, D.R (1997). SongWorks I: Singing in the education of children. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.