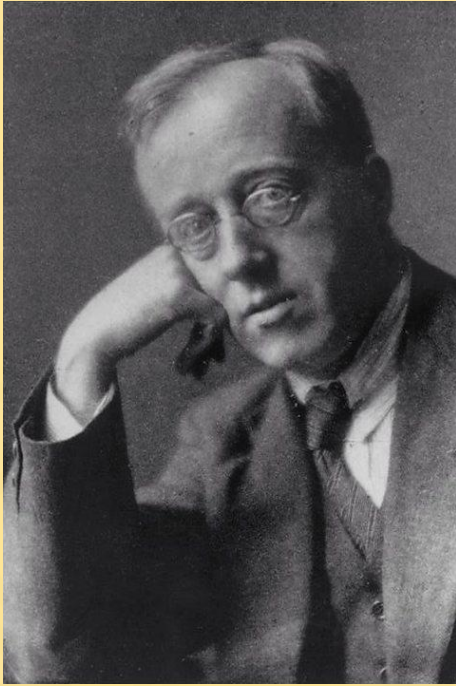


# Gustav Holst

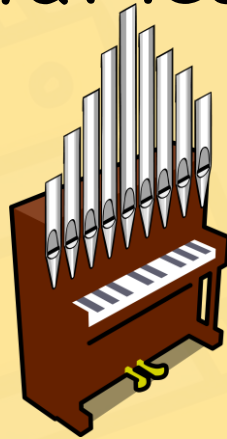


was born in Cheltenham, England in 1874.

He was born into a very musical family.  
His mother was a singer and  
his father was a pianist.  
As a child, Gustav learnt to play the...



piano



organ



trombone

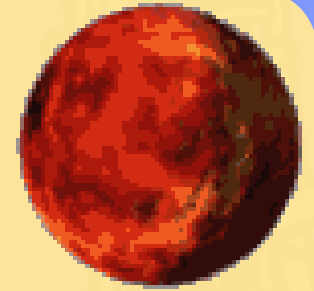
Think: Which family does the  
trombone belong to?

When he was older, he studied composition (making up and writing music) at The Royal College of Music.

After finishing college, he played the trombone professionally.



However, he did not earn enough money as a trombonist so he became a teacher.



While he was a teacher, he composed his best known works, 'The Planets Suite'.

A suite is a set of musical pieces that belong together.



We are going to listen to 'Mars', the first piece from 'The Planets Suite'. In Roman times, Mars was believed to be the god of war.

Holst composed 'Mars' just before the outbreak of World War 1.

The music sounds a bit like an army marching out to fight.

Normally a march has 4 beats in a bar so you can say, "Left, right, left, right," but 'Mars' has 5 beats in a bar so it's pretty tricky to march to!

Click below to watch Dick and Dom (from CBBC) introduce, 'Mars'.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/14ZjT5yjnKQRdKVsqrLzk1x/mars-from-the-planets-by-gustav-holst>

As you listen to the music, think about:

- Which instruments you can hear
- The similarities to last week's, 'Star Wars' music (The Imperial March)
- The mood - how it makes you feel

Extra clips for KS1:

Join Melody on her space adventure

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/melody-rocket-trip>

Cbeebies Radio Prom 'Off to the Moon'

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio/prom-off-to-the-moon](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio/prom-off-to-the-moon)