

Rockford's Rock Opera is a unique ecological musical story with clear audio narration, songs and wonderful sounds for children of all ages. The website also includes beautiful animated videos, amazing background information, song & lyric sheets, downloadable resources and teaching aids for all ages.

Teachers, parents and children across the world are united in their praise for Rockford's Rock Opera and its original, thoughtful, environmental message.

What's it about?

Far away in the Sea of Tranquillity lies the island of Infinity, home to the last one of every extinct species. Here, beneath a mystical swirling sky, live the world's lost creatures. And the creatures have a secret for the world.

Rockford's Christmas Story Lesson Plans (KS2):

Learning Objectives:

- a. to realise that money comes from different sources and can be used for different purposes.
- b. children to share their opinions on things that matter to them and explain their views.
- c. generate ideas for products after thinking about who will use them and what they will be used for, using information from a number of sources, including ICT-based sources.
- d. recognise that the quality of a product depends on how well it is made and how well it meets its intended purpose.
- e. question and make thoughtful observations about starting points and select ideas to use in their work.
- f. use a variety of methods and approaches to communicate observations, ideas and feelings, and to design and make images.
- g. to recognise the role of voluntary, community and pressure groups.
- h. that resources can be allocated in different ways and that these economic choices affect individuals, communities and the sustainability of the environment.
- i. to explore how the media present information.
- j. make real choices and decisions (for example, on the use of scarce resources; how to spend money, including pocket money and contributions to charities).

Equipment:

- Rockford's Christmas song and video.
Available to stream FREE at
<http://www.rockfordsrockopera.com/christmas/rockfords-christmas-video.asp>
- Collection of charity cards.

Lesson Plan Activity:

- Look at a collection of charity cards.
- Why do charities produce Christmas cards? Does the card design reflect the nature of the charity? Should the card reflect the nature of the charity? RNLI is a good example of one that does. Is there any other way that a charity could 'advertise' itself at Christmas and perhaps boost funds? Take ideas.
- What Christmas songs do they know? How do they make them feel?
Could a song be used to boost a charity? Do they think this would work?
What kind of song should it be?
Children could try to adapt a well known song into a Christmas song.
- Look at Rockford's Christmas video. What do they think of the idea of using a video for raising awareness for a charity? Would it work? What references to dogs are there in the video? What references are there about how a dog should be looked after?
- What impression do you get of the Rockford's character?
- If they were to design a Christmas card for Battersea Dog's Home what image would they use? If you could use a still from the video, what would it be?
- Show children how to capture a still from a video (use Power DVD or ASUDVD)
There are also some stills in the 'Camera Angle lesson plan' document (also in this section). Then use the still to make a Christmas card. Write a message inside the card asking the recipient to make a small donation to their favourite charity at Christmas time. Rockford also supports other charities besides Battersea Dog's home. Find more information on the site about how you can help other people, animals and the environment at <http://www.rockfordsrockopera.com/info/charity-friends.asp>
- Look also at the e-cards on Rockford site. Send one to a friend using a secure virtual learning site.
- Use a video camera or digiblue and make own Christmas video either acting in it or using a simple animation program and drawn or modelled images.

Where the lesson fits in with the UK National Curriculum:

- Art and design
- PSHE and citizenship
- Design and technology
- Literacy using a multimedia text