



The *Pure* Drop

Study Guide for Episode 5 — Singing Legends



Jussi Huovinen is the last living custodian of the ancient rune-singing tradition of Karelia in Eastern Europe.

Before you start

Print this study guide and then use The Pure Drop website to complete the activities relevant to you.

The resources referred to in this study guide can be found on The Pure Drop website in Episode 5 — Singing Legends.

http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

Curriculum Links in this study guide

Music _____ page 2

HSIE/SOSE _____ pages 3 and 4

English _____ page 5

Science _____ page 6



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http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

Activities for Music Curriculum topics

Go to Episode 5 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

Watch the *Singing Legends* video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:



Song: Rune song — (video and an explanation by Jussi).

Answer the following questions...

1. What do you notice about the melody of this rune? _____

2. How many different notes are used? _____
3. Is there a clear beat? What time signature would you write it in? _____
4. Listen to Jussi singing, as many times as required, and complete the melody of the rune song by adding in the missing notes.
5. What scale is used? _____
6. What role does the kantele play in the music? _____

Go to Episode 5 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:



Learn about the kantele instrument.

Answer the following questions...

1. How many strings does a kantele have and to what are they usually tuned? _____

2. What is a diatonic scale? _____
3. What makes the kantele unique when compared to other ideophones (string instruments)? How does this affect the sound? _____

4. How is the kantele played? _____



Activities for HSIE/SOSE Curriculum topics — Geography

Go to Episode 5 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

Watch the Singing Legends video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:



Karelia, Jussi's home.

Answer the following questions...

1. Jussi calls himself a Karelian. Where do Karelians come from?
2. Which two countries does the region of Karelia straddle? Go to the link for Jussi's hometown. What would the climate be like there in the summer and winter?
3. Look at the maps of Jussi's home town. What observations can you make about the geographical features of the area?

Activities for HSIE/SOSE Curriculum topics — History

Go to Episode 5 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

Watch the Singing Legends video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following links:



More about rune songs, the Kalevala, and JRR Tolkien.



Meet Jussi Huovinen.

In The Big Picture 

Read Folk music: survival in and out of the wild.

Answer the following questions...

1. What tradition does Jussi help to preserve?
2. How did publishing the Kalevala in 1835 help to protect the ancient Finnish poems and provide a sense of national identity in Finland?



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3. Sometimes traditions, languages and cultures die out. What are some of the ways to preserve them? Why is it important to preserve them?
4. What traditions from Karelia have moved into mainstream culture?
5. Why does Jussi believe this music should be preserved? Do you agree?
6. Write an essay discussing the statement: A pattern of decline, collection, preservation and revival ensures cultures survive.

Go to Episode 5 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:



Karelia, Jussi's home.

In the Related Links section at the bottom of the map page

Read  Many Karelias — Virtual Finland.

Answer the following question...

1. The author, Pekka Nevalainen, says ownership of Karelia has constantly been a 'bone of contention'. Read the article and create a timeline that identifies the significant historical events in the area's history since the 9th century.



Activities for English Curriculum topics

Go to Episode 5 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

Watch the Singing Legends video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following links:



More about rune songs, the Kalevala, and JRR Tolkien.



Meet Jussi Huovinen.



Karelia, Jussi's home.

In the Related Links section at the bottom of the map page

Read  Many Karelias — Virtual Finland.

Answer the following questions ...

1. What is the Kalevala? Who wrote it and when was it published? What are some examples of epic stories from other cultures?
2. Read the English translation of the Kalevala Rune 1 – Birth of Wainamoinen, and write a synopsis of the story so far.
3. In The Lord of the Rings the language and culture of the elves and the dwarves in Middle-Earth is dying out. Tolkien was fascinated by language and culture. Read or watch a video of The Lord of the Rings, and present a talk to your class citing the parallels between the themes presented and those of the Karelian culture. More information can be found at:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngbeyond/rings/>




Activities for Science Curriculum topics

Go to Episode 5 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_legends/

Watch the Singing Legends video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:

 More about rune songs, the Kalevala, and JRR Tolkien.

Answer the following questions...

1. Jussi has committed to memory an epic story. How has he been able to remember the intricacies of this very long story?
2. Neurobiology is the study of the brain and some scientists expound the theory that listening and playing music improves your intelligence and memory. This controversial theory has been popularised by the media who called it the 'Mozart Effect'.
3. Research this theory further and briefly describe the hypothesis and experiments that have taken place. Hypothesise a theory based on the idea that by combining words and music you are better able to remember the words. Create a simple experiment that could help to prove or disprove this theory.

The following websites have very good articles related to the topic:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozart_effect

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/music.html>

<http://parenting-baby.com/Parenting-Baby-Music-Research/Music-Research.html>