



The *Pure* Drop

Study Guide for Episode 9 — Roots and Branches



John Butler.

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 9 — Roots and Branches.

http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_roots/

Curriculum Links in this study guide

Music _____ pages 2-6

HSIE/SOSE _____ page 7

English _____ page 8



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http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_roots/

Activities for Music Curriculum topics

Go to Episode 9 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_roots/

Watch the Roots and Branches video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following links:



Meet the John Butler Trio.



What are the world music influences on John Butler's music?

Answer the following questions...

1. Which styles of music does John Butler say inspire him? _____

2. For each of these styles, briefly describe what it is in the music that inspires him and name one of his compositions that uses this influence.

Style	Inspiration	Piece

3. When he is inspired by traditional music, what does he do with it? _____

4. John says, 'You need to turn the music off and find your own spirit' when writing music. What advice does he think past composers would give? _____

5. What is fusion music? _____



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6. List the members of the John Butler Trio and the instruments they play. _____

Go to Episode 9 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_roots/

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:



Song: Damned to Hell.



In the Instruments section — read information on the Banjo.

Answer the following questions...

1. John Butler is playing the banjo in this piece. How many strings does the banjo have and what are its origins? _____

2. Listen to Damned to Hell as many times as required and fill in the missing notes of the vocal melody.





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In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:



Song: Ocean.

Answer the following questions...

1. What type of guitar is John Butler playing? _____

2. List the guitar-playing techniques John Butler uses in this piece. _____

3. What is the device called that has been placed on the fourth fret of the guitar in this piece? What effect does this have on the music? _____

4. Discuss the use of tempo and dynamics in this piece.

Tempo	Dynamics

5. What traditional styles of music do you think John Butler has been influenced by when writing this piece? Why? _____



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6. How does John Butler get a variety of tone colours on the guitar? _____

7. This piece lasts for just over 11 minutes. How are unity and variety created to maintain the listener's interest? _____

Go to Episode 9 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_roots/

In The Big Picture  →

Read about Classical music — borrowing from the tradition.

Answer the following questions...

1. Select one of the composers listed here and research the ways in which that composer has used traditional music. Listen to at least one of the composer's works and identify the musical characteristics that come from traditional music and those that do not. _____

2. How have copyright laws affected the practice of composers borrowing tunes from others? Why are you allowed to borrow many traditional tunes? _____



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In The Big Picture  →

Read about Rock and pop's hidden influences.

Answer the following questions...

1. Select one of the pop or rock artists listed here and investigate further the connection between that artist's music and traditional music.
2. Select a folk tune you know or the melody used by John Butler in *Damned to Hell* and create your own piece. Some ideas on how to do this are listed below:
 - a. Take a section of the folk tune that appeals to you and use it as a starting point for improvising and eventually creating your own melody.
 - b. Select a small section or motif from the folk tune and use the rhythm or pitch as an accompaniment pattern.
 - c. Add a drone and/or drum track to your melody.
 - d. Turn the folk tune upside down or play it backwards.
 - e. Experiment with changing the rhythm of the folk tune.
3. Perform your piece with your friends or classmates.



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Activities for HSIE/SOSE Curriculum topics

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Watch the Roots and Branches video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following links:



Meet the John Butler Trio.



What are the world music influences on John Butler's music?



Where does John come from?

Answer the following questions...

1. Why does John Butler think it is important to study and keep old music alive?
2. John Butler refers to past performers and composers of traditional music and believes they would say: 'Don't play what I play, play what you play'. What do you think he means by this?
3. JB Seed is a grants program funded by John Butler, fellow artists and associates. What is the purpose of this fund? Why are funds such as this required in our society today?
4. John Butler comes from the town of Pinjarra. What state is this in and how many kilometres is it away from the capital city?



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Activities for English Curriculum topics

Go to Episode 9 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_roots/

Watch the Roots and Branches video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following links:



Meet the John Butler Trio.



What are the world music influences on John Butler's music?

Answer the following questions...

1. Write notes while watching the Roots *and* Branches video. Write an article for a rock magazine that captures the main points John Butler is trying to get across.
2. The title of this episode is Roots and Branches. Write an explanation of why this analogy or metaphor has been used as a title.

Go to Episode 9 on The Pure Drop website http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_roots/

In The Big Picture 

Read about Rock and pop's hidden influences.

Answer the following questions...

1. The writer here has extended the tree analogy or metaphor by saying that blues, country music and reggae are branches on the world music tree. Continue this analogy and classify the following styles of music; classical, jazz, rock and pop.
2. Make a list of other things in which you could use a tree metaphor. Create an analogy or metaphor for a forest of trees.