Zara’s Musical Pattern Workshop

Learning objective: To understand how to compose a simple rhythmic sequence using different note values and musical structure.

Zara the zebra loves finding patterns in music. Help her complete her rhythmic composition! In music, we can use different symbols for sounds. Use the word bank to fill in the missing parts of Zara’s rhythm grid. Each bar must equal four beats in total. Remember: a crotchet is worth 1 beat, a minim is worth 2 beats, and a semibreve is worth 4 beats.

Word bank: Crotchet · Minim · Semibreve · Quaver · Beat · Bar · Tempo

1. Zara has a bar with two crotchets (1+1). How many more beats does she need to reach a total of 4 beats? Name a note value she could use. (2 marks)

2. If a semibreve lasts for 4 beats, how many crotchets would you need to equal the same length of time? (2 marks)

3. Zara wants to create a fast rhythm. Should she use more minims or more quavers? Explain why using your knowledge of beat values. (2 marks)

4. Write a 4-beat pattern for a rhythm using only crotchets and minims. Show your pattern using the names of the notes (e.g., Crotchet, Crotchet, Minim). (2 marks)

5. Why do musicians use a bar line when they are writing down their compositions? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'rhythm map' for Zara. Use circles to represent beats. Draw big circles for long notes (like a semibreve) and small circles for short notes (like a crotchet) to show a pattern that lasts for 8 beats.

Extension challenge: Try to clap out the rhythm you created in the final question. If you have a drum or a wooden spoon, play your rhythm to a friend. Can they repeat it back to you exactly?