

Max's Musical Mystery Tour

Learning objective: To understand and identify the key elements of music: pitch, tempo, dynamics, and timbre.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of musical elements to answer. Look at the word bank if you need help with the technical terms.

Word bank: Pitch · Tempo · Dynamics · Timbre · Crescendo · Diminuendo · Allegro · Adagio

1. Max is listening to a piece of music that starts very quietly and gradually gets louder. What is the musical term for this effect? (1 mark)

2. If a piece of music has a very fast 'tempo', how would you describe the speed of the beat? Why might a composer choose a fast tempo for a happy song? (2 marks)

3. Zara is painting a picture based on a piece of music. The music sounds 'thin' and 'metallic' because it is being played by a triangle. Which musical element is Zara noticing here? (1 mark)

4. Explain the difference between high pitch and low pitch. Give one example of an instrument that usually plays a high pitch. (2 marks)

5. If a song is marked as 'Adagio', should you walk quickly or slowly to the beat? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'sound map' of a rainforest. Use different shapes and patterns to represent the dynamics (loud or quiet) and pitch (high or low) of the sounds you might hear, such as a bird chirping or a heavy waterfall.



Extension challenge: Choose a song you enjoy. Write down the name of the song and identify its tempo (is it fast or slow?) and its dynamics (does it stay the same, or does it change throughout?).