

Exploring Pitch with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and compare high and low sounds, and understand how pitch relates to the size and length of musical instruments.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of musical pitch to answer. Max the Monkey needs your help to solve these musical puzzles!

Max the Monkey is setting up a jungle band! He knows that music is made of different sounds. Some sounds are high, like a bird chirping, and some sounds are low, like a deep drum beat. The 'pitch' of a sound tells us how high or low it is. When an object vibrates quickly, it makes a high pitch. When it vibrates slowly, it makes a low pitch.

Word bank: Pitch · High · Low · Vibration · Frequency · Instrument · String

1. Max has a set of metal chimes. If he hits the shortest chime, will the pitch be higher or lower than the longest chime? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. Look at these two instruments: a tiny triangle and a large bass drum. Which one produces a low pitch? Why do you think that is? (2 marks)

3. Describe the difference between a high-pitched sound and a low-pitched sound in your own words. (2 marks)

4. If Max tightens the string on his guitar, what happens to the pitch of the note when he plucks it? (1 mark)

5. Zara the Zebra wants to make a musical instrument out of glass bottles filled with different amounts of water. If she wants to play a very low note, should she fill the bottle with more water or less water? Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a musical instrument that makes a very high-pitched sound and one that makes a very low-pitched sound. Label them 'High Pitch' and 'Low Pitch'.



Extension challenge: Max has £15 to spend on new musical equipment. A triangle costs £3 and a small drum costs £7. If he buys one of each, how much change will he get? Write a sentence about whether these two instruments would have different pitches.