

Max's Musical Maths: The Rhythm Challenge

Learning objective: To understand and apply the duration of notes (semibreve, minim, crotchet, and quaver) within a 4/4 time signature.

Max the monkey is helping the forest band write a new song. He says that music is just like maths! Look at the note values in the word bank. Each bar must add up to 4 beats. Use the notes to fill in the gaps so that every line equals 4 beats.

Word bank: Semibreve (4 beats) · Minim (2 beats) · Crotchet (1 beat) · Quaver (0.5 beats)

1. Max has 1 minim. How many crotchets does he need to add to make a full bar of 4 beats? (2 marks)

2. If a bar contains 2 crotchets, how many quavers would you need to add to reach 4 beats? (2 marks)

3. Can you have two minims in one bar? Explain your answer using the beat values. (2 marks)

4. If a song starts with a semibreve, how many beats are left in that bar? Explain. (2 marks)

5. Create your own rhythm for a bar of 4 beats using at least three different types of notes from the word bank. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey conducting a band of forest animals. Above their heads, draw a musical staff with the notes you created in question 5.



Extension challenge: Try clapping your rhythm from question 5 out loud. If you double the speed, how many beats would the bar have then?