

Max's Tempo Investigation Journal

Learning objective: To understand and describe tempo in music using correct terminology and to identify how speed changes affect the mood of a piece.

Max the monkey is listening to different pieces of music and needs your help to record the tempo. Listen to three different tracks chosen by your teacher. Fill in this journal to describe the speed, the heartbeat of the music, and how it makes you feel.

Word bank: Adagio · Andante · Allegro · Presto · BPM · Steady · Rushed · Relaxed · Exciting · Pulse

1. Track 1: Describe the speed of the music. Is the beat slow, steady, or fast? What Italian term from the word bank would you use to describe this tempo? (2 marks)

2. Track 2: Listen to the pulse of the music. If you were to tap your foot along with it, would you be tapping quickly or slowly? Explain why. (2 marks)

3. Track 3: How does the tempo of this piece change the mood? Does it make you want to dance, march, or fall asleep? Use descriptive words. (2 marks)

4. Comparison: Which of the three tracks had the highest BPM (beats per minute)? How can you tell just by listening? (3 marks)

5. Application: Imagine you are writing a piece of music about a tortoise. What tempo would you choose and why? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose a song you know well at home. Try to clap the steady beat. Is the tempo consistent all the way through, or does it speed up and slow down? Write a sentence explaining your discovery.