

Max's Musical Patterns: Composing Melodies

Learning objective: To understand how to compose a simple melody by combining rhythm, pitch, and structure to create a musical motif.

Max the monkey loves to find patterns in everything, especially music! Use the word bank to help you answer these questions about composing your own short pieces of music.

Word bank: Pitch · Rhythm · Tempo · Melody · Motif · Duration · Compose

1. Max wants to write a short, repeating musical idea called a 'motif'. Explain in your own words why a motif is important when you compose a piece of music. (2 marks)

2. If you want your melody to sound like a fast, energetic jungle dance, which musical element would you need to change? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

3. Look at these four beats: [Crotchet, Crotchet, Minim]. If a crotchet is worth 1 beat and a minim is worth 2 beats, how many beats are in this sequence? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

4. Describe the difference between 'pitch' and 'rhythm'. Use an example of a sound you might hear in a forest to help explain. (2 marks)

5. Max has £5.00 to buy new percussion instruments. A shaker costs £1.50 and a pair of claves costs £2.25. If he buys both, how much change will he have left? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'sound map' of a melody. Use wiggly lines for high pitch and straight, apartment lines for low pitch. Add symbols to show where you would play your instruments loudly or softly.



Extension challenge: Choose three different household objects (like a wooden spoon, a plastic tub, and a metal tin). Create a 4-beat rhythm pattern using these objects and write it down using symbols of your own invention.