

Max's Musical Elements Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the key musical elements including pitch, tempo, dynamics, and texture.

Max the monkey wants to compose a new jungle rhythm! Use this fact-file to explore how different musical elements change the sound of a piece of music. Choose a song you know well and fill in the boxes below to describe its musical structure.

Word bank: Tempo · Dynamics · Pitch · Texture · Rhythm · Volume · Fast · Slow · High · Low · Loud · Quiet

1. Tempo: Describe the speed of the music. Is it andante (walking pace), allegro (fast), or lento (slow)? Why did you choose this speed? (2 marks)

2. Dynamics: Think about the volume of the piece. Does it use forte (loud) or piano (quiet) sounds? How do these changes make the listener feel? (2 marks)

3. Pitch: Listen for the melody. Are there high-pitched notes like a bird chirping, or low-pitched notes like a growling lion? Describe the range. (2 marks)

4. Texture: Is the music thin (only one or two instruments playing) or thick (many instruments playing together)? Explain what you can hear. (2 marks)

5. Musical Challenge: If you were to add one more instrument to this piece of music to make it sound more exciting, what would it be and why? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose a short section of your favorite song and try to clap along to the pulse. Can you identify if the pulse stays the same throughout, or does the tempo change?