

Max's Musical Notation Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify and describe the purpose of musical notation symbols and their values in a composition.

Max the monkey has been busy turning the sounds of the jungle into math puzzles! Use this fact-file to explain how musical notation works. Fill in the boxes to show what you have learned about rhythm and pitch.

Word bank: crotchet · minim · semibreve · stave · treble clef · bar lines · rhythm · beat

1. The Musical Stave: Describe what a stave is and explain why musicians use five lines and four spaces. (2 marks)

2. Note Values: Compare a crotchet and a minim. How many beats does each note represent in a 4/4 time signature? (2 marks)

3. The Treble Clef: Explain the purpose of the treble clef. Why is it placed at the beginning of the music? (2 marks)

4. Bar Lines and Time: What is the purpose of a bar line, and how does it help a musician keep the correct rhythm? (3 marks)

5. Composition Challenge: If you were to write a short sequence of notes, which symbols would you use to show a fast, energetic rhythm? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try to draw a mini-score on the back of this sheet. Create a rhythm using four bars, making sure each bar adds up to four beats using a mix of crotchets, minims, and semibreves.