

Max's Musical Rhythm Challenge

Learning objective: To understand and compose simple rhythmic patterns using notes and rests.

Help Max the monkey organize his jungle rhythm patterns! Use the sections below to plan your own musical beat. You will need to think about how long each note lasts and how to create a steady pulse for your song.

Word bank: crotchet · minim · quaver · semibreve · rest · tempo · pulse · beat · rhythm

1. The Pulse: Describe the tempo of your rhythm. Is it fast like a running monkey or slow like a sleepy lion? Explain why you chose this speed. (2 marks)

2. Rhythm Design: Write down a sequence of four beats using note names (e.g., crotchet, quaver, crotchet, crotchet). Make sure they add up to four beats in total. (3 marks)

3. Adding Rests: Where would you place a 'rest' in your rhythm to make it sound more interesting? Explain how a rest changes the way we hear the music. (3 marks)

4. Performance Plan: If you were to perform this rhythm using a drum or by clapping your hands, how would you make sure you keep the same speed all the way through? (3 marks)

5. Musical Reflection: Max wants to know how your rhythm makes the listener feel. Does it sound like a happy dance or a mysterious jungle walk? Describe the 'mood' of your pattern. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try performing your rhythm pattern for a partner and ask them to clap along with your steady pulse. Can you add a second rhythm layer to play at the same time as theirs?