

Max's Musical Masterpiece Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and understand the roles of historical and contemporary composers by matching their musical contributions and styles.

Max the monkey has found a collection of musical notes scattered across the jungle floor! He has identified four famous composers but has mixed up their instruments, styles, and famous works. Your task is to act as a musical detective. Draw a line to match each Composer to their corresponding 'Musical Signature' and then complete the critical thinking questions below to justify how their work shaped history.

Word bank: Orchestra · Symphony · Melody · Notation · Composition · Rhythm · Tempo · Harmony

1. Composer A (The Baroque Master) is famous for complex keyboard pieces. If a composer wanted to create a piece that sounds like a storm, which element (Tempo or Harmony) would they change first and why? (2 marks)

2. Composer B (The Classical Genius) wrote many symphonies. Compare and contrast the role of a conductor in a modern orchestra versus the role of a composer in the 18th century. (3 marks)

3. Composer C (The Romantic Storyteller) used music to represent nature. Explain why a composer might choose a flute to represent a bird rather than a tuba. (2 marks)

4. Composer D (The Modern Visionary) uses technology to record sounds. Justify your answer: Does technology make it easier to be a composer today than it was 200 years ago? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a composer decided to write a piece of music without using any rhythm or defined tempo? (2 marks)

6. Look at the musical notation below. If you were to add £5.00 worth of 'musical colour' to this piece by hiring an extra musician, which instrument would you choose and how would it change the sound? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Soundscape' of a forest. Label three different parts of your drawing with musical terms from the word bank (e.g., label the rustling leaves as 'soft rhythm' or the wind as a 'high tempo').



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a composer commissioned to write a short piece of music for an elephant's birthday party. Write a paragraph describing the tempo, the chosen instruments, and the mood of the piece. Use at least four words from the word bank in your description.