

Max's Musical Patterns: Composing with Rhythm

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of musical composition by creating rhythmic patterns using pulse, duration, and structure.

Max the monkey is organising a jungle concert! He loves using maths to create rhythmic patterns. Use your knowledge of beats and musical structure to help Max arrange his performance piece.

Word bank: Pulse · Rhythm · Duration · Tempo · Ostinato · Composition · Structure · Beat

1. Max wants to create an 'ostinato' for his drum solo. Define what an ostinato is and explain why repeating a rhythm helps the audience follow the music. (2 marks)

2. If Max plays a rhythm that lasts for four beats, and he decides to double the duration of every note, how many beats will the new rhythm last? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast 'tempo' and 'pulse'. How do they work together to create the feel of a piece of music? (2 marks)

4. Max has £15.00 to spend on new percussion instruments. A shaker costs £3.50 and a woodblock costs £4.25. If he buys two shakers and one woodblock, how much change will he receive? (2 marks)

5. Explain why a composer might choose to change the tempo halfway through a musical composition. What impact does this have on the listener's emotions? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of a 4-beat rhythm using symbols (like circles for beats and lines for longer durations) to show how you would compose a rhythm for Max's jungle drums.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are composing a piece of music for a sunrise. Write a short plan describing your chosen tempo, the instruments you would use, and why you would choose those specific sounds to represent the morning. Then, perform your rhythm using body percussion (clapping, tapping, stamping).