

Max's Musical Elements Flashcards

Learning objective: To identify and define the key musical elements (interrelated dimensions of music) for Year 5.

Read the front of each card and try to recall the definition before checking the answer on the back. Max the monkey says: 'Think of these like the ingredients in a musical recipe!'

Pitch	Tempo
How high or low a musical note sounds.	The speed of the music, which can be fast (allegro) or slow (lento).
Dynamics	Timbre
The volume of the music, ranging from very quiet (piano) to very loud (forte).	The unique 'tone colour' or quality of a sound that helps us tell different instruments apart.
Texture	Duration
How the different layers of sound fit together, such as thin (one melody) or thick (many instruments playing at once).	How long a musical sound or note lasts.
Structure	Rhythm
The overall plan or layout of a piece of music, such as Verse-Chorus-Verse.	The pattern of different note lengths that move the music forward.
Beat	Silence
The steady, underlying pulse of the music that you might tap your foot to.	The absence of sound, used to create dramatic pauses and contrast in music.
If a song starts very quiet and gradually gets louder, which musical element is changing?	Why is 'Timbre' important when listening to an orchestra?
Dynamics.	It allows us to distinguish between the sound of a violin and the sound of a trumpet.