

Max's Musical Notation Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and understand basic musical notation symbols, including note values and the stave.

Join Max the monkey as he turns musical notes into a maths puzzle! Read each question carefully and select or write the correct answer to help Max compose his next masterpiece.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.B, 5.Stave, 6.A, 7.Crotchet, 8.True, 9.Semibreve, 10.B. Explanation: A semibreve is worth 4 beats, a minim is 2, a crotchet is 1, and a quaver is 0.5 beats.

Word bank: Stave · Minim · Semibreve · Crotchet · Quaver · Treble Clef · Bar line

1. 1. Which musical symbol indicates the pitch of notes on the stave? A) Minim, B) Bar line, C) Treble Clef*, D) Quaver (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A crotchet note is worth one beat in common time. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: A stave consists of only three horizontal lines. (1 mark)

4. 4. Which note value is worth two beats? A) Semibreve, B) Minim*, C) Quaver, D) Crotchet (1 mark)

5. 5. What is the name of the set of five horizontal lines and four spaces where music is written? (1 word) (1 mark)

6. 6. How many beats does a quaver usually represent? A) Half a beat*, B) One beat, C) Two beats, D) Four beats (1 mark)

7. 7. Which note looks like a solid black circle with a stem attached? (1 word) (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: A bar line is used to divide music into equal sections. (1 mark)

9. 9. What is the name of the note that looks like an empty oval and lasts for four beats? (1 word) (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these symbols represents a silence in music? A) Treble Clef, B) Rest*, C) Stave, D) Bar line (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a musical stave and place three crotchets on the lines. Add a Treble Clef at the beginning to show Max where the music starts!



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why composers use bar lines to group notes together. 2. If a piece of music is in 4/4 time, justify why you cannot have five crotchets in a single bar. 3. Compare and contrast the duration of a minim and a semibreve. 4. What might happen if a musician ignored the time signature? 5. Create your own original rhythm pattern using a mix of crotchets and quavers. 6. If a crotchet is worth £1.00, calculate the total value of a bar containing one minim, one crotchet, and two quavers.