

Max's Musical Rhythm Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify and understand key rhythmic notation and pulse in Year 4 music.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of rhythmic terms. Max the monkey has hidden a maths-style puzzle in each definition!

Pulse

The steady, underlying beat that runs through a piece of music, like a heartbeat.

Tempo

The speed at which a piece of music is played, which can be fast, slow, or moderate.

Rhythm

The pattern of different note lengths and silences that happen over the steady pulse.

Crotchet

A musical note that lasts for one beat.

Minim

A musical note that lasts for two beats.

Quaver

A musical note that lasts for half a beat.

Bar

A small section of music containing a specific number of beats, marked off by vertical lines.

Time Signature

A set of two numbers at the start of a piece that tells you how many beats are in each bar.

Syncopation

A rhythm that puts emphasis on the 'off-beat' or the weaker parts of the pulse to make it feel bouncy.

Rest

A symbol used in music to indicate a period of silence for a specific duration.

Ostinato

A short, simple musical pattern that is repeated over and over again.

Metronome

A device that produces a steady click to help musicians keep the correct tempo.