

Max's Musical Rhythm Investigation

Learning objective: To identify, compose, and record rhythmic patterns using crotchets, minims, and quavers.

Join Max the monkey to explore the world of rhythm! Use this template to create and analyse your own musical sequences. You will need to think about how different note lengths fit together in a bar. Follow the prompts to build your composition and explain your choices.

Word bank: Crotchet · Minim · Quaver · Tempo · Beat · Pulse · Bar · Composition

1. My Rhythm Pattern: Draw or write your rhythm using symbols for minims (long), crotchets (medium), and quavers (short). Organise them into a 4-beat bar. (2 marks)

2. Explain why you chose this specific sequence of notes. How does the arrangement change the 'feel' of the music? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast: How does the duration of a minim differ from a pair of quavers when played at the same speed (tempo)? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were to double the tempo of your rhythm, would it still be recognisable as the same piece of music? Why or why not? (4 marks)

5. What might happen if you added a 'rest' into your composition? How would this affect the silence and the flow of the beat? (3 marks)

6. Max asks: If a crotchet costs £1.00 in 'rhythm money', how much would a bar of four crotchets cost? If you swapped one crotchet for two quavers, would the total cost change? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Challenge: Compose a new 8-beat rhythm that uses a variety of note lengths. Once finished, perform your rhythm for a partner using body percussion (clapping, tapping, or stamping). Write a short critique of your performance: what went well, and how could you make the rhythm more complex next time?