

Max's Musical Elements Guide

Tune into the rhythm and explore the building blocks of sound with Max the Monkey!

- **Pitch** refers to how high or low a note sounds. A chirping bird has a high pitch, while a deep drum has a low pitch.
- **Tempo** is the speed of the music. A fast tempo makes you want to dance, while a slow tempo can feel calm or sad.
- **Dynamics** tell us the volume. A crescendo is when the music gradually gets louder, just like a rising tide.
- **Texture** describes how many layers of sound are playing at once—are they thick like a forest or thin like a single leaf?
- **Timbre** is the unique 'colour' or quality of a sound that helps us tell a trumpet apart from a violin, even if they play the same note.
- **Structure** is the plan of the music, like how a song is built with verses, a chorus, and a bridge.

Did you know? Did you know that the word 'dynamics' comes from the Greek word 'dynamis', meaning power? In music, it describes how loud or soft a sound is, ranging from 'pianissimo' (very quiet) to 'fortissimo' (very loud)!

Key vocabulary: Pitch · Tempo · Dynamics · Texture · Timbre · Structure · Crescendo · Staccato