

Max's Musical Masterpiece: The Science of Song

Learning objective: To understand the physical components of singing, including posture, breathing, and pitch, and to represent these concepts visually.

Max the monkey is preparing for a big forest concert! Use the word bank to label the different parts of the body that help us sing beautifully. Follow the drawing prompts to create your own musical scene.

Draw: Create a detailed illustration of Max the monkey singing on a forest stage. The style should be vibrant and clear, like a scientific diagram mixed with a storybook illustration. Include Max in the centre with an open, relaxed mouth (showing good articulation). Add 'sound waves' flowing from his mouth to represent resonance. Ensure the background shows the forest environment to set the scene for a performance.



Label words: Diaphragm · Lungs · Vocal folds · Pitch · Posture · Resonance · Articulator

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw Max standing with excellent 'posture' (shoulders back, head held high). Why is good posture essential for a singer to control their breath effectively? Explain your reasoning.
2. Step 2: Draw an arrow pointing to Max's chest area to represent the 'lungs'. Explain how the lungs and diaphragm work together to sustain a long, steady musical note.
3. Step 3: Label the 'vocal folds' in Max's throat. What might happen to the sound produced if the vocal folds

vibrate at a faster frequency?

4. Step 4: Draw a musical stave (lines) above Max's head. Add notes to show a rising 'pitch'. How does changing your pitch affect the melody of a song?

5. Compare and contrast singing a loud, boisterous song versus a soft, gentle lullaby. What changes must the singer make to their breathing and resonance?

6. Justify your answer: If a singer ignores their 'articulators' (lips, tongue, and teeth), how will the audience perceive the song? What might the lyrics sound like?