

Max's Musical Metronome: Exploring Tempo

Learning objective: To understand, identify, and describe different tempi (speeds) in music using accurate terminology.

Max the monkey has been busy listening to different pieces of music in the jungle. He has identified six different tracks, but he needs your help to classify them! Read the descriptions of the musical pieces below and match them to the correct tempo term from the word bank. Then, answer the deeper thinking questions to demonstrate your mastery of rhythm and speed.

Word bank: Largo (very slow and broad) · Adagio (slow and stately) · Andante (at a walking pace) · Moderato (at a moderate speed) · Allegro (fast, quickly and bright) · Presto (extremely fast)

1. 1. A lullaby played by a gentle harp that feels like a slow, deep breath. Which tempo is this? (1 mark)

2. 2. An upbeat, energetic drum solo that makes you want to dance quickly. Which tempo is this? (1 mark)

3. 3. Explain why a composer might choose to use a 'Presto' tempo for a chase scene in a film. How does this affect the listener's heart rate? (3 marks)

4. 4. Compare and contrast 'Andante' and 'Moderato'. If you were marching to both, what would be the difference in your step? (3 marks)

5. 5. Justify your answer: If you wanted to teach a beginner how to play a new piece on the piano, would you start at 'Allegro' or 'Largo'? Give a reason for your choice. (3 marks)

6. 6. What might happen to the 'mood' of a sad, slow song if you suddenly changed the tempo to 'Presto'? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Tempo Map' of a journey. Show a character moving through a forest. Use musical symbols or wavy lines to represent where the music would be 'Largo' (deep, wide valleys) and where it would be 'Presto' (sharp, jagged mountain peaks).



Extension challenge: Choose a piece of music from home or school. Write a short paragraph describing its tempo. If you were a composer, how would you rewrite this piece to make it feel more urgent or more relaxed? Use the correct musical terminology in your explanation.