Max’s Tempo Investigation: Music Detective

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and compare different musical tempos using correct terminology.

Max the monkey is exploring how different speeds of music change the mood of a song. Listen to three different pieces of music and use this fact-file to record your findings. Use the word bank to help you describe what you hear.

Word bank: Largo · Adagio · Andante · Moderato · Allegro · Presto · BPM (Beats Per Minute) · Steady · Rapid · Leisurely

1. Music Piece 1: Describe the tempo of the first piece. Is it fast or slow? Which Italian term from the word bank best describes it and why? (3 marks)

2. Music Piece 2: How does the speed of this piece make you feel? Describe the mood using musical vocabulary. (2 marks)

3. Music Piece 3: If you were to count the beats per minute (BPM), would this piece have a high or low number? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

4. Comparing Tempos: Which of the three pieces would be best for a marching parade and which would be best for a sleepy lullaby? Explain your choice. (3 marks)

5. Tempo Challenge: If a composer wanted to make a piece of music sound more 'exciting' or 'anxious', how could they change the tempo? Write a short explanation. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose one of the musical pieces you listened to today and create a 'rhythm map' using symbols (like dots for fast notes and long dashes for slow notes) to show how the tempo changes throughout the piece.