

Exploring the Elements of Music with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand and identify the key musical elements: pitch, tempo, dynamics, texture, and timbre.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of music to explain how different sounds are created. Max the Monkey has provided a word bank to help you with your answers.

Word bank: Pitch · Tempo · Dynamics · Texture · Timbre · Crescendo · Staccato · Legato

1. Max is playing a drum. If he decides to play much louder than before, which musical element is he changing? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. If a piece of music starts very slowly and gradually gets faster, what is the musical term for this change in speed? (1 mark)

3. How would you describe the difference in 'timbre' between a wooden flute and a metal trumpet, even if they play the exact same note? (2 marks)

4. If a song has many different instruments playing different melodies at the same time, is the 'texture' thin or thick? Give a reason for your choice. (2 marks)

5. Define 'pitch'. If you move from a low note to a high note, what is happening to the frequency of the sound waves? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of a 'Crescendo'. Use shapes and sizes to show how the sound grows from a whisper to a loud roar.



Extension challenge: Choose your favourite song and list three instruments used in it. Describe the 'timbre' of each instrument and explain how the 'tempo' makes you feel when you listen to it.