

Max's Musical Maths: Decoding the Stave

Learning objective: To identify and understand musical notation symbols, including note values and their placement on the stave.

Max the monkey is trying to turn a jungle rhythm into a song, but he has mixed up his notation! Look at the symbols below and match them to their correct musical name and time value. Then, use your knowledge to complete the rhythm puzzles.

Word bank: Semibreve (4 beats) · Minim (2 beats) · Crotchet (1 beat) · Quaver (1/2 beat) · Treble Clef · Stave

1. Draw a line to match the symbol to its name and value: A circle note (Semibreve), a note with a stem (Minim), a filled-in note with a stem (Crotchet). How many crotchets fit into one semibreve? (2 marks)

2. Max wants to write a bar of music that adds up to exactly 4 beats. If he uses two minims, does he need any more notes? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

3. What is the name of the five-line grid where we place our musical notes to show their pitch? (1 mark)

4. If a quaver is worth half a beat, how many quavers would you need to make a 2-beat minim? (1 mark)

5. Look at the symbol that looks like a fancy 'G' at the start of the staff. What is its name and what does it tell a musician? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Treble Clef at the start of a five-line stave and place three crotchets on the lines. Underneath your notes, write the total number of beats they represent.



Extension challenge: Compose your own 4-beat rhythm pattern using a mix of minims, crotchets, and quavers. Can you clap your pattern out loud to a steady pulse?