

Max's Musical Mystery: Mastering Notation

Learning objective: To identify and understand musical notation, including note values, time signatures, and the stave.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of musical symbols to solve these rhythm and melody puzzles. Max the monkey is counting on you to help him finish his symphony!

Word bank: stave · treble clef · semibreve · minim · crotchet · quaver · time signature

1. Max has drawn a piece of music on a set of five horizontal lines. What is the correct musical name for these five lines? (1 mark)

2. In a 4/4 time signature, how many crotchet beats are there in one bar? Show your working out. (2 marks)

3. If a semibreve is worth 4 beats, how many quavers would you need to equal the same value? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

4. Look at the symbol that looks like a fancy 'G' at the start of the staff. What is it called, and what is its purpose? (2 marks)

5. Max wants to write a rhythm that lasts for exactly 3 beats using only minims and crotchets. Write down two different ways he could combine these notes to reach 3 beats. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a treble clef on a stave and place three crotchet notes on the lines or spaces. Label the note that is the highest on your stave.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are composing a short rhythm for a drum kit. Create a 4-bar piece using a 4/4 time signature. Use a mixture of crotchets and quavers, ensuring each bar adds up to 4 beats exactly.