

Max's Musical Mystery Tour

Learning objective: To identify and describe the inter-related dimensions of music including tempo, dynamics, pitch, and texture.

Join Max the monkey as he explores the jungle of sound! Read the questions carefully and use your musical knowledge to solve the puzzles. Good luck!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Pitch, 4.A, 5.False, 6.Dynamics, 7.B, 8.Texture, 9.C, 10.Tempo. For the Greater Depth questions, pupils should explain that tempo changes the 'feel' or energy of a piece, while dynamics change the emotional intensity.

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

1. 1. What is the musical term for how fast or slow a piece of music is played? A) Dynamics B) Pitch C) Tempo* D) Timbre (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A 'crescendo' means that the music is gradually getting louder. (1 mark)

3. 3. If a sound is very high or very low, which musical element are you describing? (1 mark)

4. 4. Which term describes music that is played in a smooth, connected style? A) Legato* B) Staccato C) Tempo D) Forte (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: 'Texture' refers only to how soft or loud an instrument is. (1 mark)

6. 6. What is the correct term for the volume of a piece of music? (1 mark)

7. 7. If a musician plays short, detached notes, they are playing: A) Legato B) Staccato* C) Piano D) Mezzo (1 mark)

8. 8. What do we call the 'layers' of sound in a piece of music (e.g., solo versus an orchestra)? (1 mark)

9. 9. Which dynamic marking means 'quiet'? A) Forte B) Mezzo C) Piano* D) Presto (1 mark)

10. 10. If a song has a very fast pulse, how would you describe its...? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a musical scene in the jungle. Use colors to represent different sounds: use bright, sharp colors for high-pitched, staccato sounds and soft, swirling colors for low-pitched, legato sounds.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why a composer might choose to use a sudden 'crescendo' in a piece of music. 2. Compare and contrast the 'texture' of a solo violin versus a full symphony orchestra. 3. Justify your answer: Does the tempo of a piece of music always determine how 'happy' it sounds? Why or why not? 4. What might happen to the mood of a lullaby if the dynamics were changed from 'piano' to 'forte'? 5. Create a four-bar rhythmic pattern using staccato and legato notation. 6. If you were composing a song about a thunderstorm, which musical elements would you manipulate to create tension, and why?