

## Max's Musical Math: Decoding Notation

*Learning objective: To understand and apply knowledge of musical notation, including note values, the stave, and time signatures.*

Help Max the monkey solve these musical puzzles. Use your knowledge of rhythm and pitch to complete the tasks accurately. Remember to check the duration of each note value carefully.

*Word bank: Stave · Treble Clef · Minim · Crotchet · Quaver · Semibreve · Bar Line · Time Signature*

**1. Max is writing a piece of music in 4/4 time. If he has already placed one minim and one crotchet in a bar, how many more beats does he need to complete the bar? Justify your answer using your knowledge of note values. (2 marks)**

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**2. Compare and contrast a semibreve and a quaver. How many quavers would fit into the duration of one semibreve? Show your working out. (2 marks)**

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**3. Explain why the 'Treble Clef' is positioned at the start of the stave. What might happen to the music if it were missing? (2 marks)**

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**4. Zara the zebra is drawing a pattern of notes. If she draws four crotchets followed by two minims, how many beats are there in total? Write the number of beats. (1 mark)**

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**5. What is the purpose of a bar line in a piece of sheet music? How does it help a musician keep the rhythm steady? (2 marks)**

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**6. If Max wanted to create a rhythm that lasts for exactly 12 beats using only minims, how many minims would he need to draw on the stave? (1 mark)**

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**Draw:** Draw a five-line stave. On the stave, draw a Treble Clef, a bar line, and a sequence of notes that adds up to exactly four beats (4/4 time signature). Label each note with its name (e.g., Crotchet).



*Extension challenge: Compose your own two-bar rhythm using a mixture of minims, crotchets, and quavers. Write a short explanation for a friend describing why you chose that specific arrangement of notes and how it might sound when played at a fast tempo.*