

Max's Tempo Treasure Hunt: Understanding Musical Speed

Learning objective: To understand and identify musical tempo, including key Italian terms and their meanings, as part of the Grade 4 Music curriculum.

Max the monkey is exploring the jungle to find the rhythm of the rainforest! Read the flashcards to learn about tempo. You can fold them in half or quiz a friend to check your knowledge.

What is Tempo?

The speed or pace of a given piece of music.

What does 'Largo' mean in music?

Very slow and broad.

How would you describe 'Adagio' tempo?

Slow and stately.

What is the meaning of 'Andante'?

At a walking pace.

What does 'Moderato' mean?

At a moderate, medium speed.

What does 'Allegro' mean in music?

Fast, quick, and bright.

What is the meaning of 'Presto'?

Very, very fast.

What does 'BPM' stand for in music?

Beats Per Minute.

What is a metronome?

A device used by musicians to mark time by means of regular ticks or flashes at a set speed.

What is the 'pulse' of a piece of music?

The steady, underlying beat that you can tap your foot to.

If a song is 60 BPM, how many beats occur in one second?

One beat per second.

Which Italian term would you use if you wanted the music to speed up gradually?

Accelerando.