

Mastering Musical Notation with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand, identify, and apply standard musical notation symbols and rhythm values within the Year 5 music curriculum.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of musical symbols. Max the Monkey has hidden a secret code in the music—can you crack it by identifying these terms?

The Stave

A set of five horizontal lines and four spaces upon which musical notes are written.

Treble Clef

A symbol placed at the beginning of the stave indicating that the notes have a higher pitch.

Semibreve

A whole note that lasts for four beats in 4/4 time.

Minim

A half note that lasts for two beats.

Crotchet

A quarter note that lasts for one beat.

Quaver

An eighth note that lasts for half a beat.

Bar Line

A vertical line drawn across the stave to divide music into equal sections called bars.

Time Signature

Two numbers written at the start of a piece of music to show how many beats are in each bar.

Tempo

The speed or pace at which a piece of music is played.

Rest

A symbol used to represent a period of silence in a piece of music.

Dotted Minim

A note that lasts for three beats (a two-beat minim plus half its value).

What does a time signature of 3/4 mean?

There are three beats in every bar, and the crotchet note receives one beat.