

Mastering Musical Pitch with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand the concept of pitch in music, including high and low frequencies, and how instruments produce varying pitches.

Read each flashcard carefully. Max the Monkey loves to solve maths-based music puzzles, so think about the vibrations and patterns as you learn these definitions.

What is Pitch?

Pitch is the perceived highness or lowness of a musical sound, determined by the frequency of the sound wave.

How does vibration relate to pitch?

A faster vibration results in a higher pitch, while a slower vibration results in a lower pitch.

What is an Octave?

An interval of eight notes where the higher note has double the frequency of the lower note.

What is Frequency measured in?

Frequency is measured in Hertz (Hz), which represents the number of vibrations per second.

What happens to the pitch of a string if you increase the tension?

Increasing the tension makes the string vibrate faster, resulting in a higher pitch.

Define 'Ascending' in relation to melody.

Ascending describes a sequence of notes that move from a lower pitch to a higher pitch.

How does the length of a pipe affect the pitch of a wind instrument?

A longer pipe produces a lower pitch because the air column vibrates more slowly, whereas a shorter pipe produces a higher pitch.

What is an Interval?

The distance in pitch between two different notes.

Explain why a thick string on a guitar usually produces a lower sound than a thin string.

A thicker string has more mass and therefore vibrates more slowly than a thin string, creating a lower pitch.

Compare and contrast: How are high-pitched sounds and low-pitched sounds different in terms of sound waves?

High-pitched sounds have a high frequency with waves closer together; low-pitched sounds have a low frequency with waves further apart.