

Mastering Tempo with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand, identify, and apply musical tempo terminology within the context of the Year 5 music curriculum.

Read the front of each flashcard carefully. Try to define the term or answer the question before checking the answer provided after the ' | ' symbol. Use these cards to test your knowledge of musical speed.

What is the musical definition of 'Tempo'?

Tempo refers to the speed or pace of a given piece of music or musical passage.

What does the abbreviation 'BPM' stand for in music?

BPM stands for Beats Per Minute, which is the unit used to measure tempo.

Define the term 'Largo'.

Largo is a tempo marking meaning very slow and broad, often described as stately.

How would you describe the speed of 'Adagio'?

Adagio is a slow tempo, often described as leisurely or at ease.

Explain the tempo 'Andante'.

Andante is a moderately slow tempo, often described as a walking pace.

What does 'Moderato' mean?

Moderato is a moderate, medium tempo that is neither too fast nor too slow.

Define the term 'Allegro'.

Allegro is a fast, lively, and bright tempo.

How would a musician interpret the term 'Presto'?

Presto is a very fast tempo, performed with great speed and energy.

What is an 'Accelerando'?

Accelerando is a musical instruction to gradually increase the tempo or speed up.

What is a 'Ritardando'?

Ritardando is a musical instruction to gradually decrease the tempo or slow down.

Max the Monkey is playing a drum beat. If he changes from 60 BPM to 120 BPM, has the tempo increased or decreased?

The tempo has increased; the music is now twice as fast.

Compare and contrast 'Largo' and 'Presto'.

Both are terms describing speed, but Largo is at the very slow end of the spectrum, while Presto is at the very fast end.