

Max's Musical Tempo Challenge

Learning objective: To identify, define, and compare different tempos in music, understanding how speed affects the mood and character of a composition.

Max the monkey is putting together a rhythmic jungle symphony! Use your knowledge of musical tempo to help him organise his beats. Read each question carefully and circle your chosen answer.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Largo, 4.B, 5.False, 6.Allegro, 7.D, 8.True, 9.Presto, 10.BPM. A higher BPM means a faster tempo. A slower tempo often creates a calm or solemn mood, while a fast tempo creates excitement or urgency.

Word bank: Largo · Adagio · Andante · Allegro · Presto · BPM · Tempo · Pulse

1. 1. Max wants a very slow, broad tempo for his opening scene. Which term should he choose? A) Allegro B) Presto C) Largo* D) Andante (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: 'Andante' is traditionally described as a walking pace. (1 mark)

3. 3. If a piece of music is played at a slow, leisurely speed, what is the Italian musical term for this? (1 word) (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these terms means 'fast, lively, and bright'? A) Adagio B) Allegro* C) Largo D) Grave (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: 'Presto' is a slower tempo than 'Adagio'. (1 mark)

6. 6. Max is composing an energetic chase scene. Should he use 'Largo' or 'Allegro'? (1 mark)

7. 7. What does the abbreviation 'BPM' stand for in music? A) Beats Per Measure B) Bars Per Minute C) Big Powerful Music D) Beats Per Minute* (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Tempo refers to the speed at which a piece of music is played. (1 mark)

9. 9. If a musician sees 'Presto' on their sheet music, how should they play? (1 word) (1 mark)

10. 10. What is the standard measurement used to define how many beats occur in one minute? (1 word) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey conducting an orchestra of jungle animals. Use visual symbols like jagged lightning bolts to show 'Presto' (fast) music, and soft, wavy lines to show 'Largo' (slow) music.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a composer might choose to gradually increase the tempo (accelerando) during a film score. 2. Compare and contrast the mood created by a Largo tempo versus a Presto tempo. 3. Justify your answer: If you were composing a lullaby, which tempo would you select and why? 4. What might happen if a drummer completely ignored the tempo of a song? 5. If a song has 120 beats per minute, how many beats would occur in 30 seconds? Show your working. 6. Describe a real-life activity that matches the speed of 'Andante' and explain your reasoning.