

Max's Musical Tempo Investigation

Learning objective: To understand, identify, and describe different tempi in music using accurate terminology.

Max the monkey has been listening to a variety of musical pieces to analyse their speed. Use this investigation sheet to record your own findings. Listen to three different pieces of music and complete the sections below to describe how the tempo affects the character and mood of the composition.

Word bank: Largo · Adagio · Andante · Moderato · Allegro · Presto · BPM · Pulse · Rhythm · Urgency · Tranquil

1. Musical Piece 1: Identify the tempo and justify your answer. How does the speed of the pulse influence the mood of the piece? (3 marks)

2. Musical Piece 2: Compare and contrast this piece with your first choice. Use specific musical vocabulary to describe the tempo. (3 marks)

3. Musical Piece 3: Explain why a composer might choose a 'Presto' tempo for an action-packed scene in a story compared to a 'Largo' tempo. (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were to compose a piece of music to represent a bustling marketplace, which tempo would you choose and why? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a calm, lullaby-style piece was performed at an 'Allegro' tempo? Explain the effect on the listener. (3 marks)

6. Creative Extension: Design a rhythm pattern that could be played at both a slow and a fast tempo. Describe how the character of the rhythm changes. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Compose a short sequence of four bars of music using rhythmic notation. Annotate your composition to show where you would include a 'ritardando' (slowing down) or 'accelerando' (speeding up) to create musical interest for the audience.