

Easy Music Theory for Middle School

Name: _____ Class: _____ Year: _____

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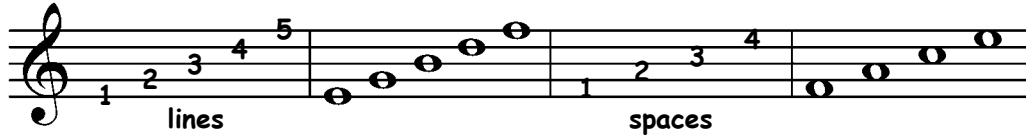
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THE STAFF

Staff: Music is written on five lines called the *staff*.

Lines and spaces are numbered from the bottom to the top.



Part A: Join the dots to make a 5-line staff.



Part B: Draw notes on lines and in spaces.



SAMPLE

A low pitch is shown by placing the note lower on the staff.

A high pitch is shown by placing the note higher on the staff.

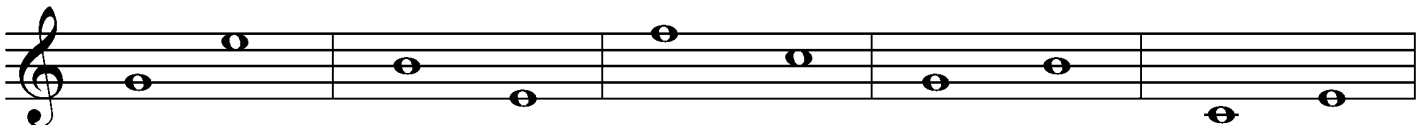


lower sounding notes



higher sounding notes

Part C: Circle the **higher** note of each pair.



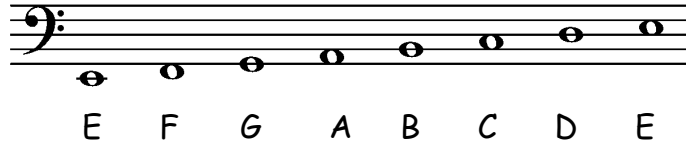
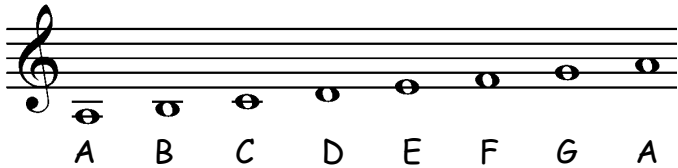


TREBLE AND BASS CLEF NOTE NAMES

The first seven letters of the alphabet are used to name notes in order:

A B C D E F G

After G is named, the letters are used again beginning with A.



Part A: Let's *mix* it up! Draw your clef. Name these notes found on lines and in spaces.

1.

2.

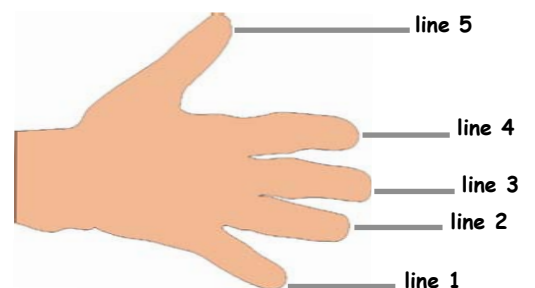
SAMPLE

Part B: Draw your clef and the following notes on the staff using whole notes.

1.

2.

Make a Hand Staff: Hold your hand in front of you with your fingers spread apart. Number your fingers 1-2-3-4-5 from the bottom to the top. That creates five lines, just as there are five lines on the staff. The spaces are found in between your fingers. Practice naming notes on your hand staff.





QUARTER NOTES AND RESTS

The time signature is two numbers found at the beginning of the staff.



The number on the top tells us how many beats are in each measure.



The four on the top means that there are four beats in each measure.



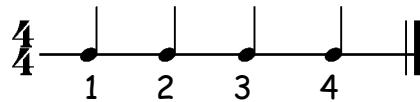
The bottom number tells us what kind of note gets a single beat.



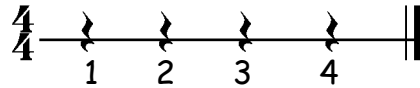
The four on the bottom means that a quarter note ♪ gets one beat.



A **quarter note** is one beat in $\frac{1}{4}$ time. In a measure of $\frac{4}{4}$ time there are four quarter notes.



A **quarter rest** is one beat of silence in $\frac{1}{4}$ time. In a measure of $\frac{4}{4}$ time there are four quarter rests.



Part A: Draw your clef at the beginning of the staff. Draw four quarter notes in each measure. If a note is found on the third line, or above, the stem is drawn down and on the left side of the note head. If a note is found below the third line, the stem is drawn up and on the right side of the note head.



SAMPLE

Part B: Draw your clef at the beginning of the staff. Write the counting under the notes. Clap or say the rhythm.



Part C: Draw quarter notes ♪ or rests ♫ to complete the measures. Clap or say the rhythm.



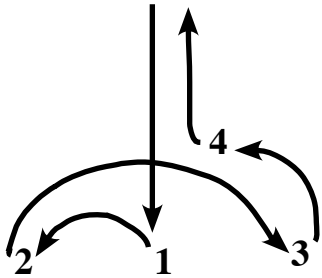
CONDUCTING PATTERNS



The Conductor: The conductor interprets the music and directs the performance of a band, orchestra or chorus. Conducting patterns are used for different time signatures.

- C** Common Time
When there are 4 beats in the bar you can use either $\frac{4}{4}$ or **C** time signature.

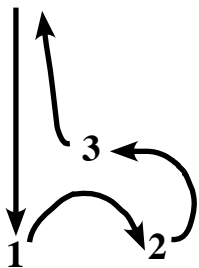
The conducting pattern for $\frac{4}{4}$ is shown like this:



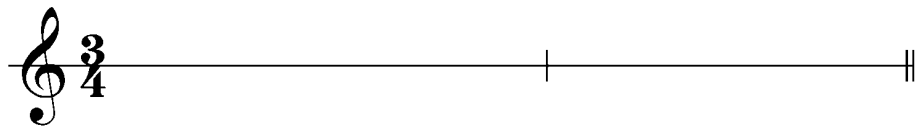
Create a rhythm pattern in $\frac{4}{4}$ time. Practice conducting your pattern.
In $\frac{4}{4}$ time there are 4 beats in each measure.



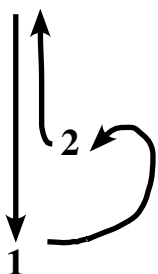
The conducting pattern for $\frac{3}{4}$ is shown like this:



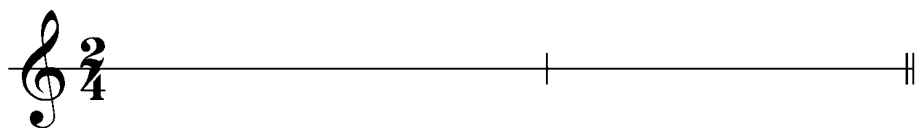
Create a rhythm pattern in $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Practice conducting your pattern.
Remember that in $\frac{3}{4}$ time there are 3 beats in each measure.



The conducting pattern for $\frac{2}{4}$ is shown like this:



Create a rhythm pattern in $\frac{2}{4}$ time. Practice conducting your pattern.
In $\frac{2}{4}$ time there are 2 beats in each measure.





DYNAMICS

Dynamics: The dynamics in music refer to how loud or soft the music is. Italian words are used to describe different dynamics.

Crescendo < Gradually get louder.

Decrescendo > Gradually get softer.

These dynamics tell us to play the music **loud**.

These dynamics tell us to play the music **soft**.

<u>Italian:</u>	<u>Symbol:</u>	<u>Play or Sing:</u>
fortissimo	<i>ff</i>	very loud
forte	<i>f</i>	loud
mezzo forte	<i>mf</i>	medium loud

<u>Italian:</u>	<u>Symbol:</u>	<u>Play or Sing:</u>
mezzo piano	<i>mp</i>	medium soft
piano	<i>p</i>	soft
pianissimo	<i>pp</i>	very soft

Part A: Write the name of the dynamics term in the blank.

f _____

mf _____

ff _____

p _____

pp _____

mp _____

SAMPLE

Part B: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

- Mezzo forte means _____.
- _____ means very loud.
- Dynamics tell us _____.
- Forte means _____.
- Write the abbreviation for: forte _____ fortissimo _____ mezzo forte _____
- Crescendo means _____. The symbol is _____
- Decrescendo means _____. The symbol is _____
- _____ means very soft.
- Mezzo piano means _____.
- List all the dynamics from **loudest** to **softest**: _____



TEMPO

Tempo: The tempo tells us whether the beat of the music is fast or slow. Italian words are used to describe different speeds or tempos.

<u>Italian:</u>	<u>Play or Sing:</u>
prestissimo	very quickly (as fast as you can go)
presto	quickly
vivace	fast and lively
allegro	quickly, lively and bright

Part A: Unscramble the fast and slow tempo terms. Explain what the term means.

1. glaloer _____

2. rgaol _____

3. oartoedm _____

4. yci _____

5. taennda _____

Part B: Fill in the blanks for these fast and lively tempo terms.

1. Allegro means _____
_____.

2. _____ means very quickly
(as fast as you can go).

3. Vivace means _____.

4. _____ is faster than
presto and vivace.

5. Presto means _____.

SAMPLE

<u>Italian:</u>	<u>Play or Sing:</u>
moderato	moderately, medium speed
andante	slow, at a walking pace
adagio	slowly
largo	very slow and broad



Part C: Fill in the blanks for these slower tempo terms.

1. _____ means at a moderate, or medium speed.

2. Andante means to play or sing at a _____ pace.

3. _____ means very slow and broad.

4. Adagio means _____.



TIME SIGNATURES

Time Signatures: The time signature is a pair of numbers found at the beginning of the staff. The top number tells us how many beats are in a measure. The bottom number tells us what kind of note receives a single beat.

The **top** number tells us how many beats are in a measure.

$\frac{2}{2}$ ♩ ♩ = two beats in a measure

$\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ = four beats in a measure

$\frac{3}{8}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ = three beats in a measure

$\frac{6}{8}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ = six beats in a measure

Part A: Write the number of beats in the measures. Fill in the **top** numbers for these time signatures.

1. $\frac{\square}{8}$ ♩ ♩

2. $\frac{\square}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

3. $\frac{\square}{2}$ ♩ ♩

4. $\frac{\square}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

5. $\frac{\square}{8}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

The **bottom** number tells us which kind of note receives a single beat:


$\frac{2}{2}$ = **half note** ♩ gets one beat

$\frac{4}{4}$ = **quarter note** ♩ gets one beat

$\frac{3}{8}$ = **eighth note** ♩ gets one beat

$\frac{2}{16}$ = **sixteenth note** ♩ gets one beat

Part B: Fill in the blank and draw the note that receives one beat for the following time signatures. Use the chart above to help you answer the questions.

1. $\frac{6}{8}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ A(n) eighth note note  receives one beat.

2. $\frac{3}{2}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ A(n) _____ note _____ receives one beat.

3. $\frac{5}{4}$ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ A(n) _____ note _____ receives one beat.

4. $\frac{2}{2}$ ♩ ♩ A(n) _____ note _____ receives one beat.



MUSICAL REPEATS

Composers use Italian words and symbols to show how the music repeats. These are often used together throughout a piece of music.

<u>Italian:</u>	<u>Sign:</u>	<u>Meaning:</u>
Da Capo	D.C.	repeat from the beginning
Dal Segno	D.S.	repeat from the sign (segno) $\text{\textcircled{S}}$
Coda	$\text{\textcircled{+}}$	an added passage, skip to the coda $\text{\textcircled{+}}$
Fine	<i>Fine</i>	the end

Part A: Fill in the blanks below.

A.

1. Play to measure _____ where it says D.S. _____.
2. Go back to measure _____.
3. Play to measure _____ where it says *F* _____.

B.

1. Play to measure _____ where it says D.C. _____.
2. Go back to measure _____.
3. Play to measure _____ where it says *F* _____.

C.

1. Play to measure _____ where it says D.C. _____.
2. Go back to measure _____.
3. Play measure _____ where it says *To* _____.
4. Skip to the _____ sign $\text{\textcircled{+}}$ in measure _____ and end at measure _____.

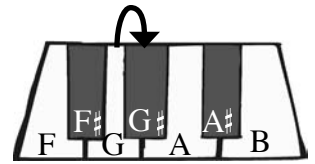
D.

1. Play to measure _____ .
2. Go back and repeat from measure _____.
3. End at measure _____ .

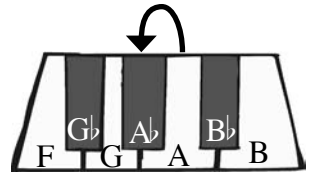


SHARPS, FLATS AND NATURALS

Sharp: # A sharp sign raises the pitch of the note one half step.
Practice drawing a row of sharp signs:

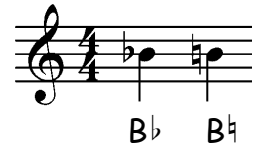


Flat: b A flat sign lowers the pitch of the note one half step.
Practice drawing a row of flat signs:



b _____

Natural: ♮ A natural sign cancels any sharps or flats. When there is a natural sign the note is played unaltered by any sharps or flats, even if they are written in the key signature.



Draw a row of natural signs: _____

Part A: Draw the clef sign for your instrument at the beginning of the staff and name the notes.

1.

2.

Sharps, flats and naturals are written **before** the note.

Part B: Draw your clef on the staff. Write the accidentals (with whole notes) on the staff.

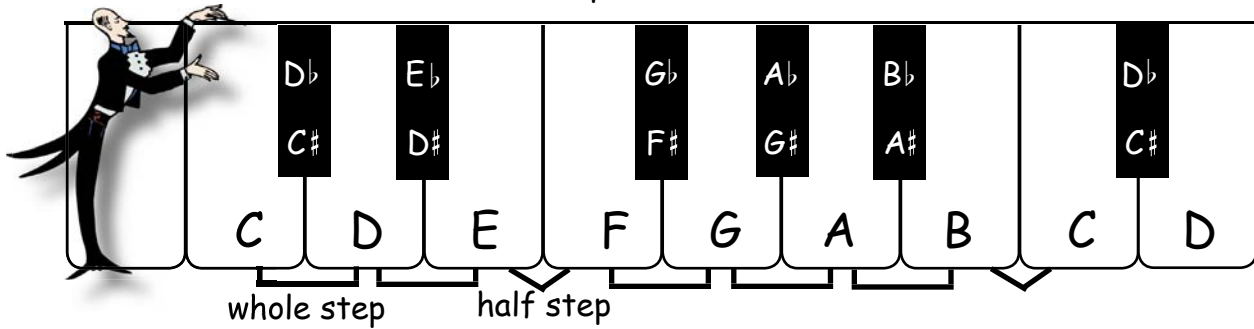
A^b B^b D[#] F[#] C E^b B[♮] D[♮] F A[#] G



WHOLE AND HALF STEPS

The notes of the C scale are shown on the keyboard below. C to D is a whole step. You can tell it is a whole step because there is a black key between the white keys. E to F has no black keys in between, so E to F is a half step. Using the keyboard, write whether the following steps are whole or half steps.

C to C# is a half step. C to D is a whole step.
A whole step has a note in between.



C to D is a whole step. D to E is a _____ step. E to F is a half step.
F to G is a _____ step. G to A is a _____ step. A to B is a _____ step.
B to C is a _____ step.

Part A: Draw your clef at the beginning of the staff. Write the notes on the staff using whole notes. Refer to the keyboard above and decide if the notes are a whole or half step apart. Circle whole or half.

1.

A A# B Bb C D E F
whole / half whole / half whole / half whole / half

2.

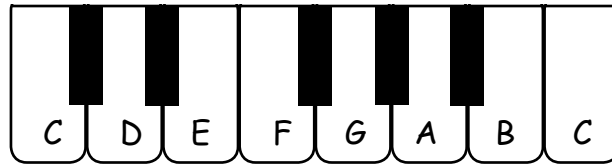
C C# E Eb B C D E
whole / half whole / half whole / half whole / half

Part B: Answer the questions.

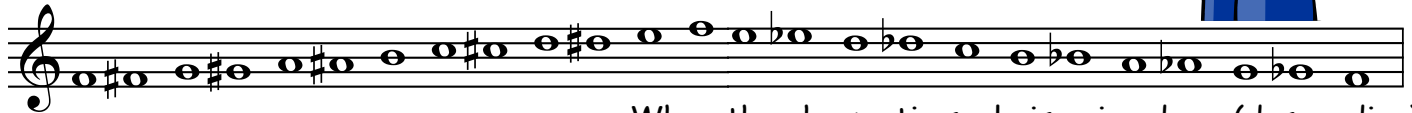
- How can you tell if the notes are a half step apart? _____
- How can you tell if the notes are a whole step apart? _____



CHROMATIC SCALES



A chromatic scale is made up of tones that are half steps apart. When the chromatic scale is going up (ascending), we add sharps to raise each note a half step.

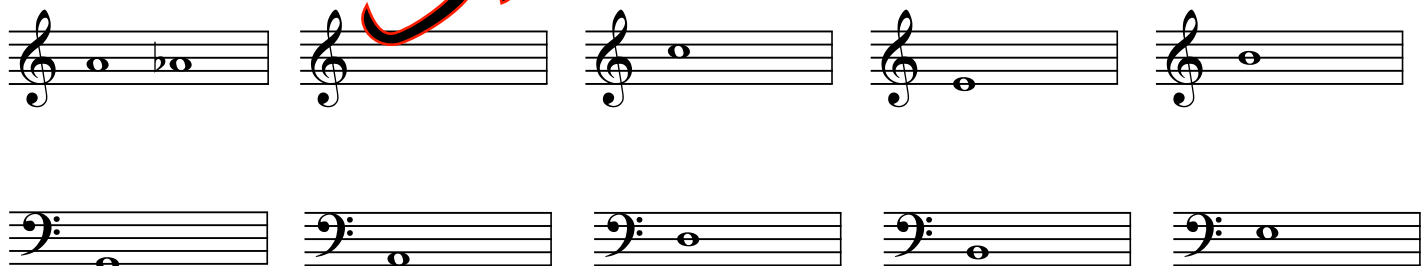


When the chromatic scale is going down (descending), flats lower each note a half step.

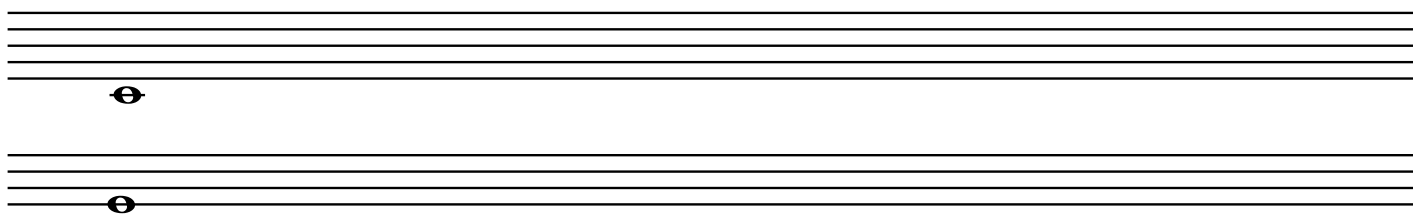
Part A: Raise the note one half step (in your clef). The first example has been completed for you.



Part B: Lower the note one half step.



Part C: Draw your clef and write a chromatic scale on the staff.





KEY SIGNATURES

Key Signature: Sharps or flats at the beginning of the staff that tell us what key the music is in.

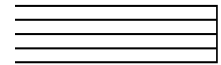


The key signature above has F# and C#. This is the key of D. F and C are sharp so that the pattern of whole and half steps is a major scale.
The pattern of steps that makes up a major scale is: whole, whole, half, whole, whole, whole, half.

F Major Scale



In your clef draw B \flat in the key signature:

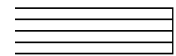


Part B: Draw the pattern of whole and half steps for the F major scale above and the scales on the keyboards below. A whole step is written like this: A half step is written like this:

C Major Scale



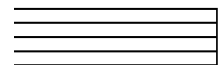
*The C Major Scale has no sharps or flats so the key signature is left blank.



E \flat Major Scale



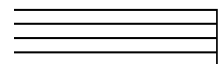
In your clef draw B \flat , E \flat and A \flat in the key signature:



G Major Scale



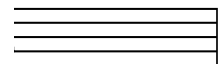
In your clef, draw F# in the key signature:



B \flat Major Scale



In your clef draw B \flat and E \flat in the key signature:



SAMPLE