



MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE

INSTRUMENT FAMILIES

There are four different groups of musical instruments known as families.



Brass Family



String Family



Woodwind Family



Percussion Family

MUSICAL TERMS

There are many terms and phrases which are used when describing music.

Term	Definition
Pulse	the beat of the music that is sometimes imagined as the heartbeat of the music
Pitch	how high or low a note is
Tempo	the speed of the music
Duration	length of time each note is played for
Rhythm	a pattern of beats
Melody	the tune of the song (the part you find yourself singing along to)
Crescendo	getting louder
Diminuendo	getting quieter
Chord	a group of notes (usually 3 or more) played at the same time
Solo	played by a single musical instrument or voice



MUSIC NOTATION

Musical notation is a way of writing down music so that anyone can play it. Writing music down using special symbols makes it possible for the composer (person who writes the music) to let other people know how it should be played.



Treble Clef - This is the 'swirly' symbol used for writing music. It indicates the pitch of the notes and helps musicians to read their music.

A semibreve is a note that last for 4 beats.

A minim is a note that lasts for 2 beats.

A crotchet is a note that lasts for 1 beat.



crotchet minim semibreve

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EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. Which of these words matches the definition 'a pattern of beats'?
2. How many beats are in a minim?
3. What instrument family does a flute belong to?
4. How many instrument families are there?
5. What does the composer do?
6. What is the note called that last for 4 beats?
7. What does the term crescendo mean?
8. Which family of instruments does the trombone belong to?
9. Which of these words matches the definition 'the tune of the song'?
10. How many beats does a crotchet last for?