

# MUSIC THEORY

STUDENT WORKBOOK



↑ LEVEL 1 ↓



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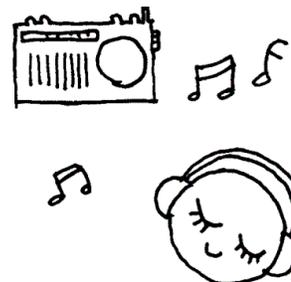
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## Lesson 1.1 - Introduction to Music

We all hear lots of sounds at any given moment.

Listen to the various sounds going on around you right now!

- How would you describe them?
- Do they have a pattern?
- Are they organized?
- Do you think this is music?



Music is organized sound.

We can use music to tell other people about Jesus Christ. This can be done through the use of singing, brass, percussion, piano and guitar music —any instrument that will promote God's glory!

### Letter Names

There are seven letters of the music alphabet:

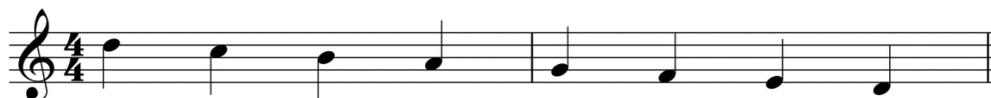
A B C D E F G

We use these as **note names** to classify what a note or pitch sounds like.

Notes can **ascend** (go higher):



Notes can **descend** (go lower):

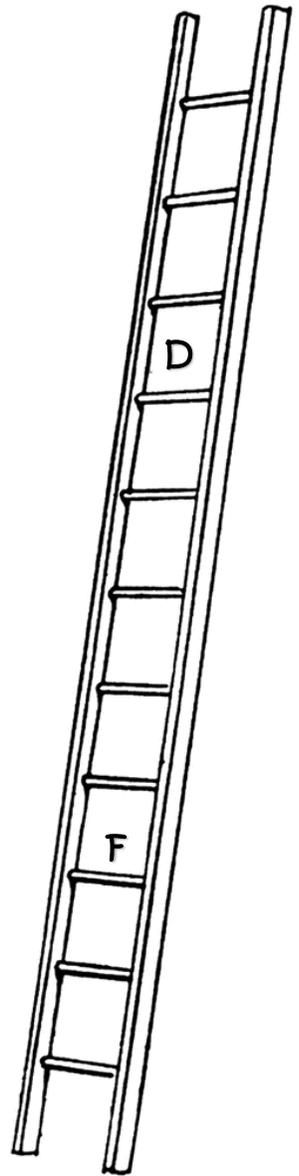
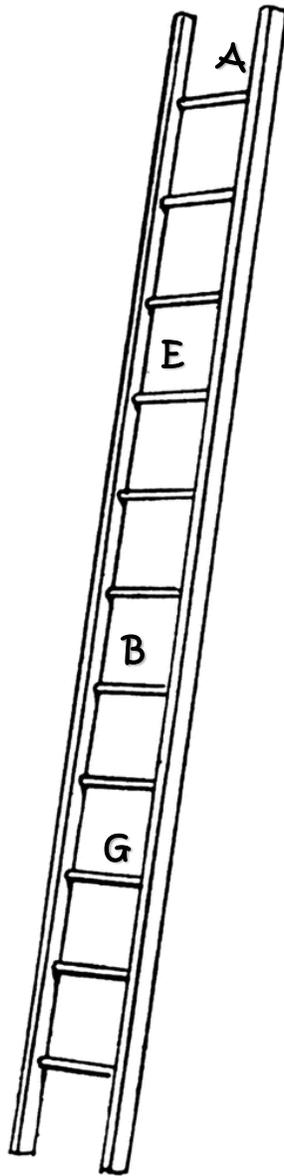
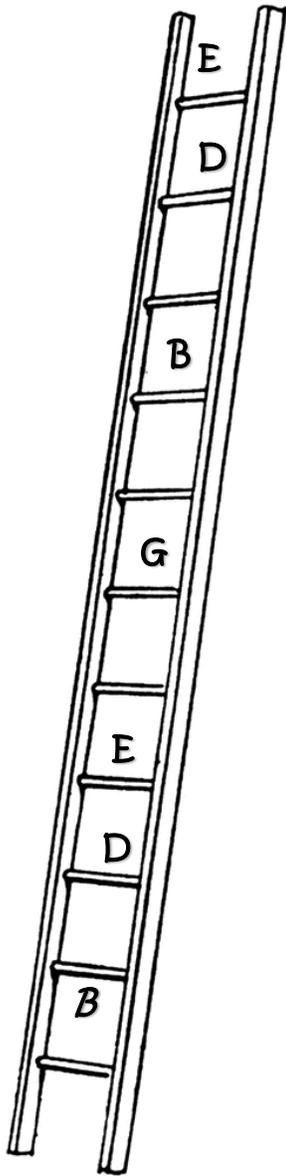


Only seven letters? There can't be just seven sounds in the whole world!

The letter names of notes can be repeated when you run out!

EXERCISE

Fill in the missing note names!



## The Octave

When we have moved from one **A** to another **A**, we have played an **octave**, a term used in music to describe the space between notes of the same letter name.

Listen to different **A**'s played by your teacher.

- How are they similar?
- How are they different?

You should be able to tell that they are the same letter name, one is just higher or lower than the other. They are in different **octaves**.



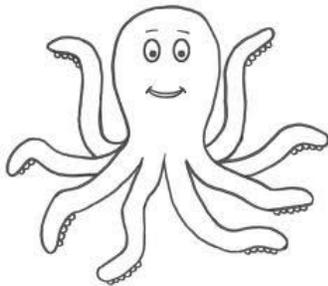
### TIP

*The term octave is used because, the number **eight** is involved.*

*It turns out that including the first note and the last note, there are **eight** pitches in an octave.*



In the same way, a stop sign is in the shape of an **OCTAGON** because it has *eight* sides.



And this animal is called an **OCTOPUS** because it has *eight* tentacles (legs).

**OCTAVE = EIGHT NOTES**

## EXERCISE

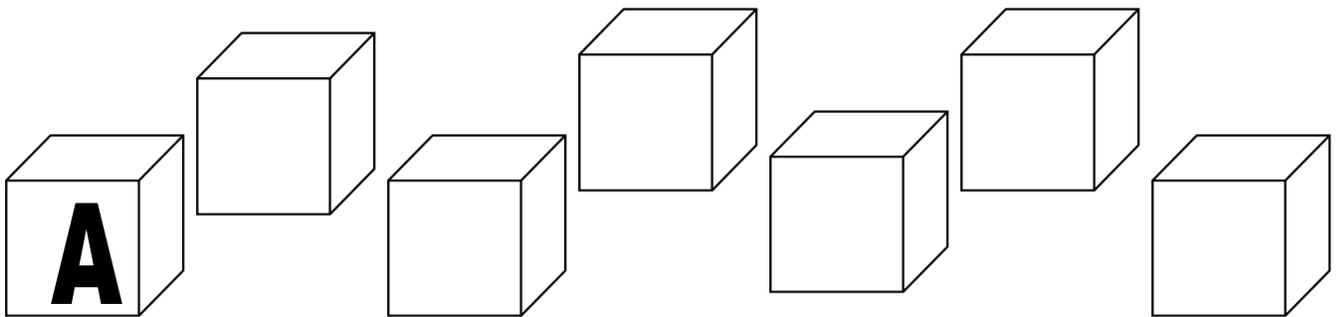
Fill in the missing notes below. Make sure you are moving forward (up the ladder, not down).

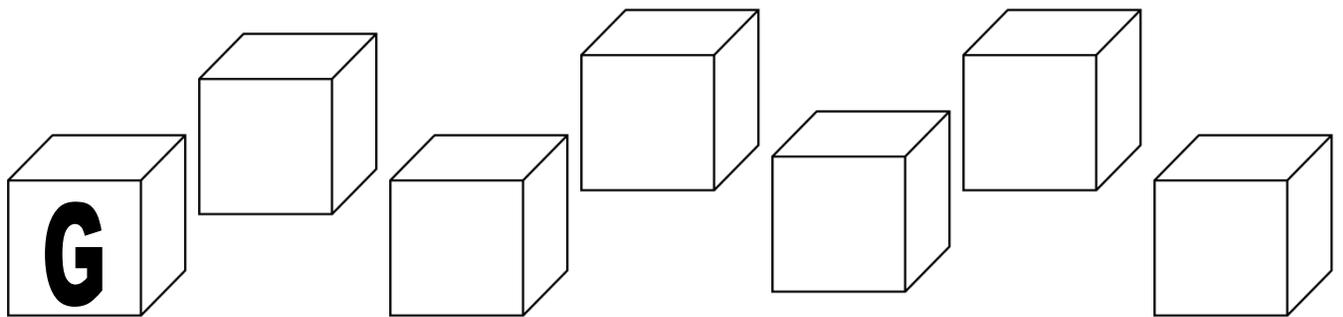
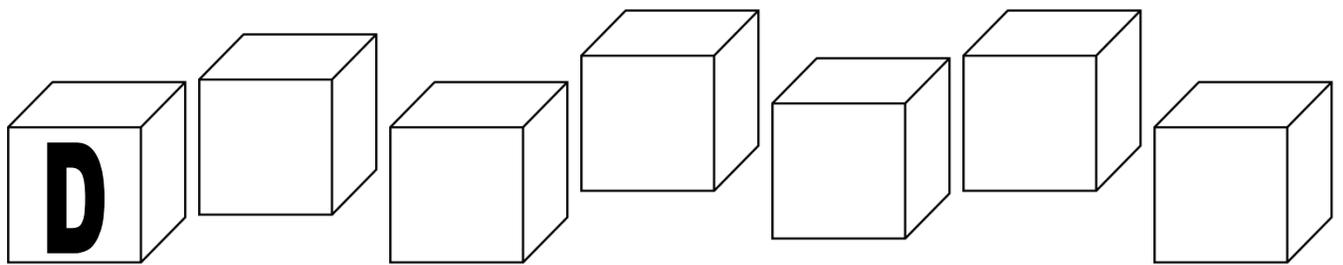
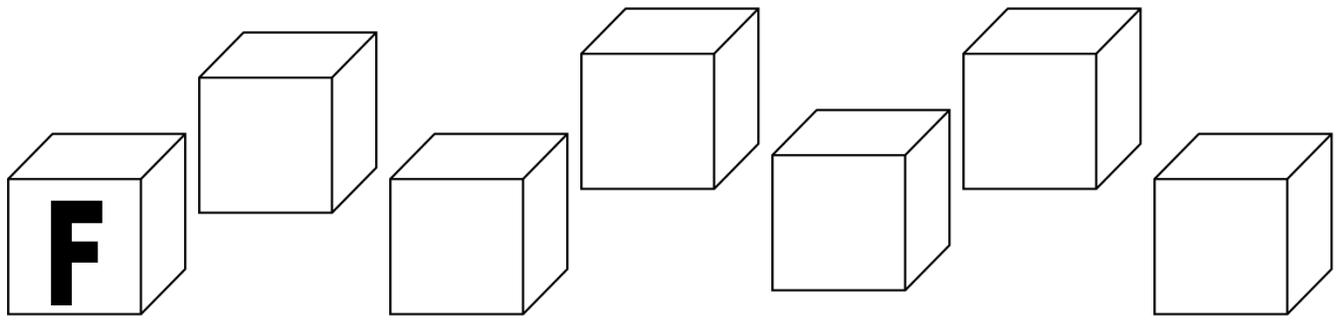
Example:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
C	—	—	—	—	—	—	C
D	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
G	—	—	—	—	—	—	G
F	—	—	—	—	—	—	F
B	—	—	—	—	—	—	B



Put letter names in the right order on the building blocks below.



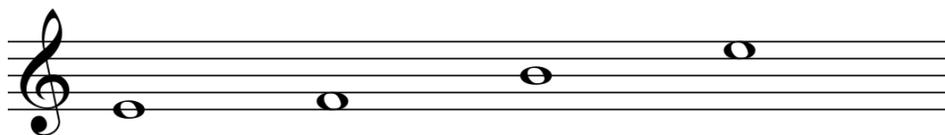


## SUMMARY

- ✓ Music is organized sound.
- ✓ All pitches have note names.
- ✓ The seven note names are A B C D E F G.
- ✓ As you move forward through the music alphabet, the notes get higher (ascend).
- ✓ As you move backward through the music alphabet, the notes get lower (descend).
- ✓ The letter names can be repeated.
- ✓ An octave is the space of eight notes between pitches of the same letter name.
- ✓ Two notes of the same letter name can sound higher or lower than each other.

## Lesson 1.2 - The Staff

Musical notes can be written on a staff of five lines and four spaces. Notes can be written on the lines or in the spaces.



Line note

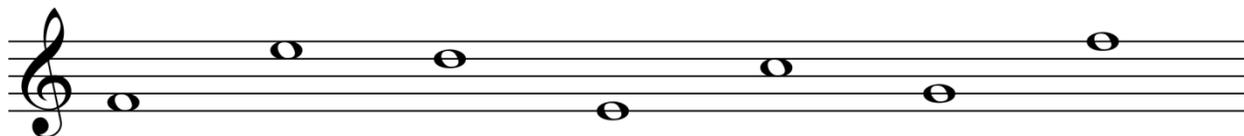
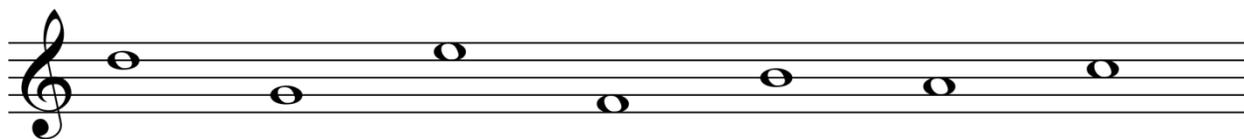
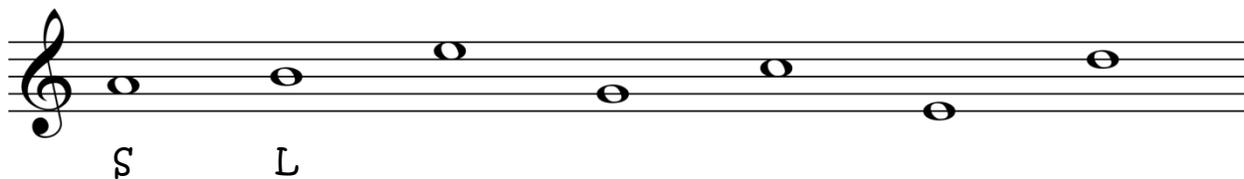
Space note

Line note

Space note

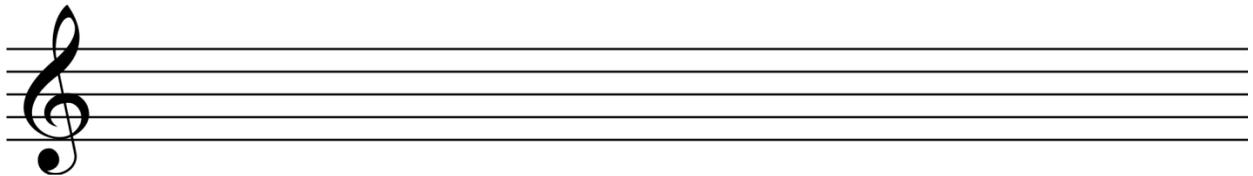
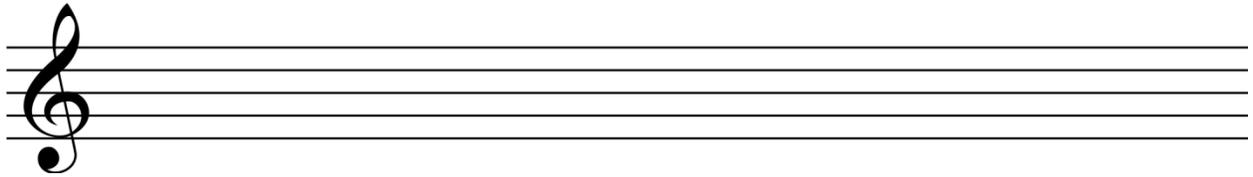
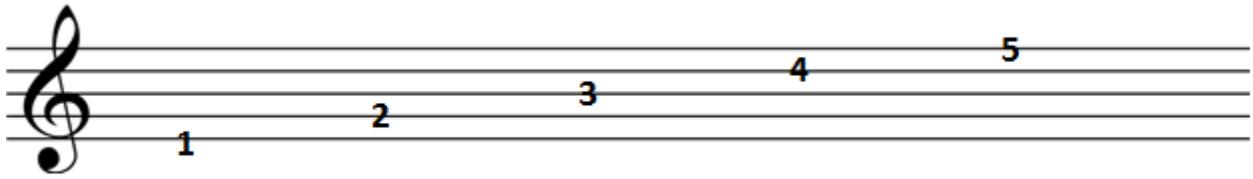
### EXERCISE

Identify which of the following notes are on a line (L) and which notes are in a space (S). The first two are done for you.



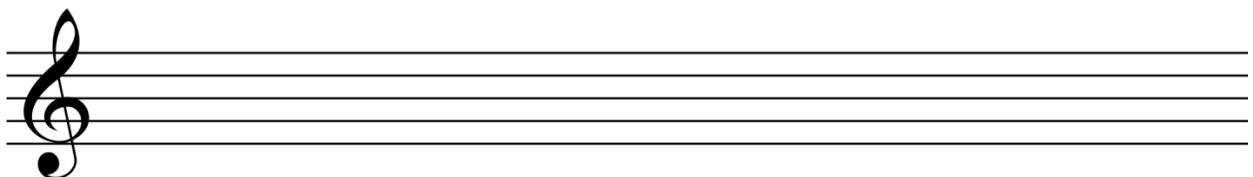
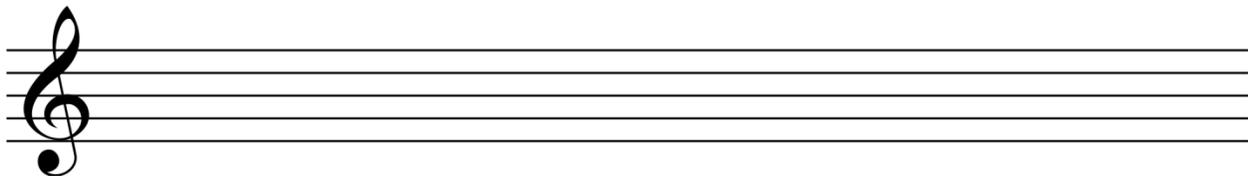
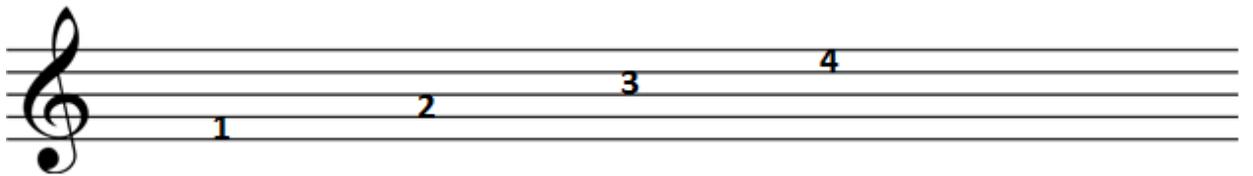
## EXERCISE

Number the lines as shown.



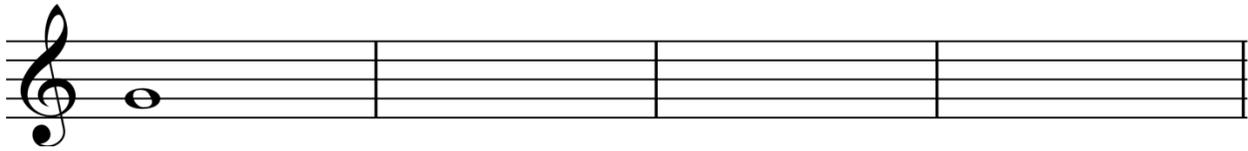
## EXERCISE

Number the spaces as shown.



## EXERCISE

Fill in the missing notes. The first one is done for you.

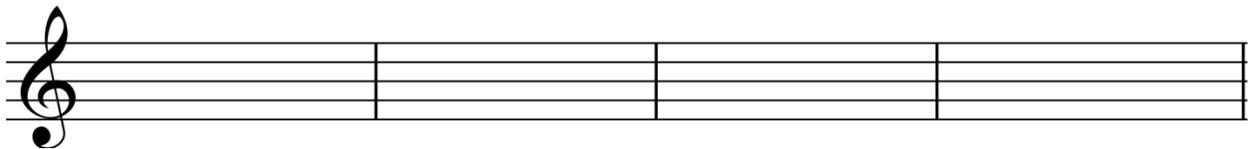


Draw a note  
on line 2

Draw a note  
in space 4

Draw a note  
in space 1

Draw a note  
on line 5

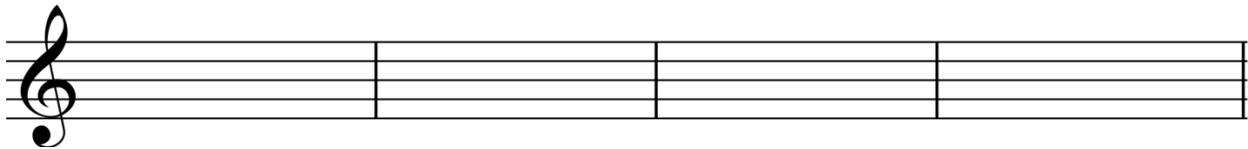


Draw a note  
on line 1

Draw a note  
in space 2

Draw a note  
in space 3

Draw a note  
on line 3



Draw a note  
in space 4

Draw a note  
in space 1

Draw a note  
on line 4

Draw a note  
on line 5

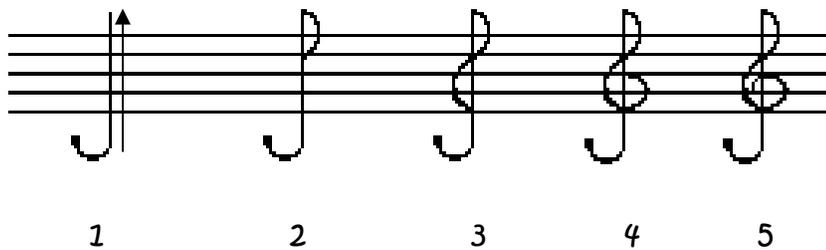
# The Treble Clef

Notice the symbol written at the beginning of the staff.

This symbol is called the Treble Clef.

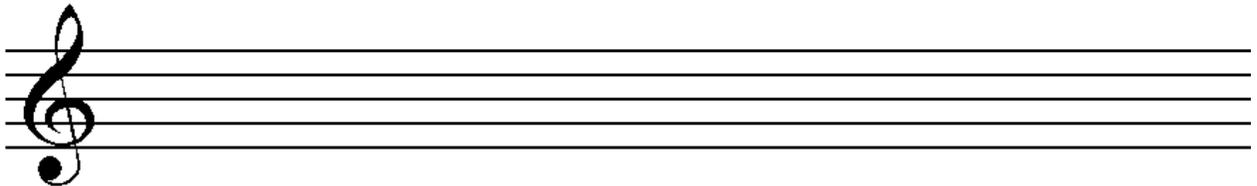
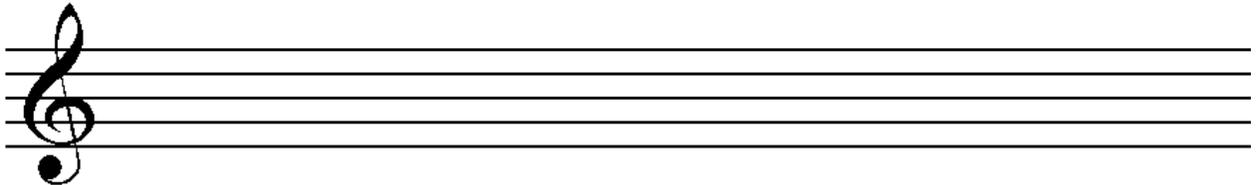


Here's how to draw a Treble Clef:



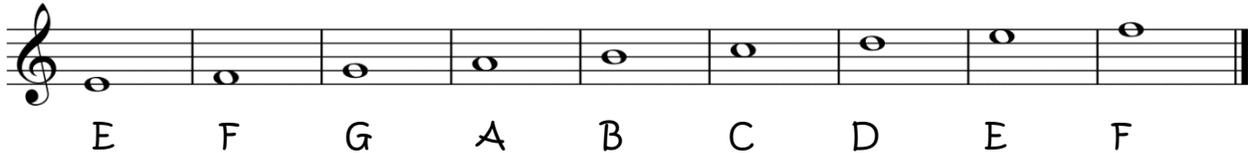
## EXERCISE

Practice drawing Treble Clefs.

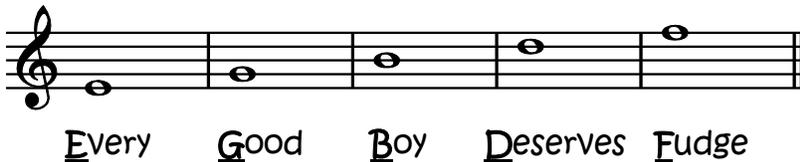
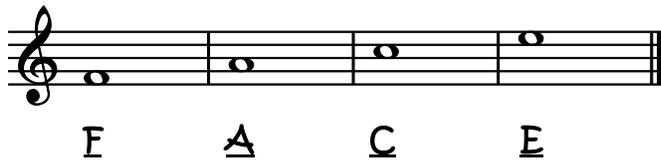


## Treble Clef Note Names

On the Treble Clef Staff, the note written on line 1 is an E. When we move up the staff, the notes get higher. The note that fits on the first space is an F. The note on the second line is a G, and so on.



Another way of learning the notes written on the lines and spaces of the Treble Clef is by memorizing the following words and phrases:



### TIP

Notice that the Treble Clef circles around the note G and therefore is sometimes called the G Clef.

If you need to remember where G is on the staff, just look at the Treble Clef!

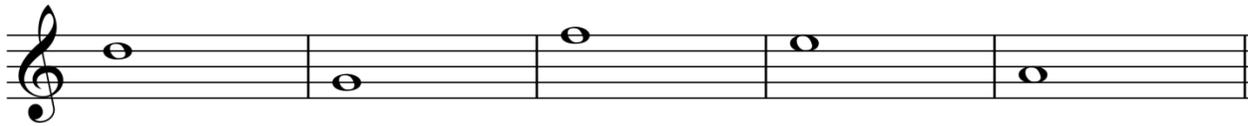


# EXERCISE

Write the name of each note.



B      —      —      —      —



—      —      —      —      —



—      —      —      —      —



—      —      —      —      —



—      —      —      —      —

## EXERCISE

Draw the following notes on the staff.



E                    B                    F                    C                    A



D                    C                    G                    B                    F



B                    F                    A                    E                    G



G                    A                    B                    F                    D

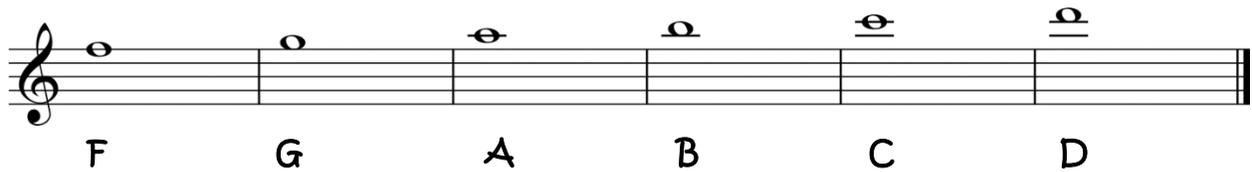


F                    E                    C                    G                    D

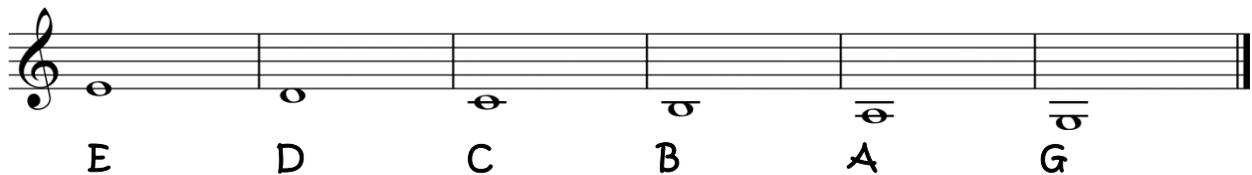
## Treble Clef Ledger Lines

Remember the ladder exercise? As you went up and down the steps of the ladder, you just continued the pattern of letters in the music alphabet. In the same way, notes can be written above or below the staff using **ledger lines**.

Ledger lines above the staff:

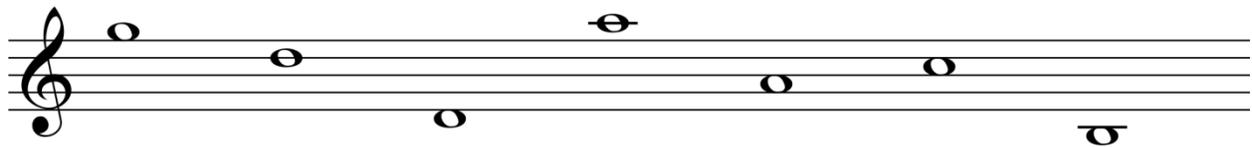


Ledger lines below the staff:

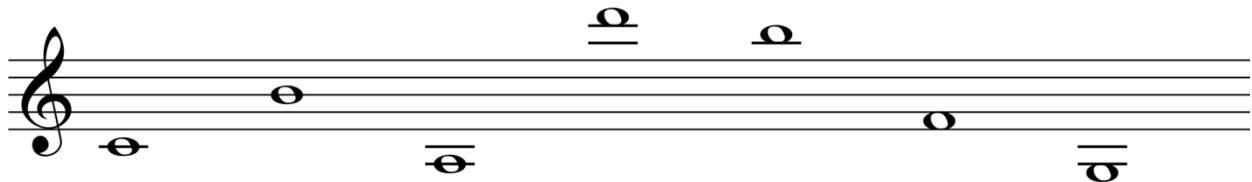


### EXERCISE

Name the notes on the following Treble Clef Staves.



\_\_\_\_\_

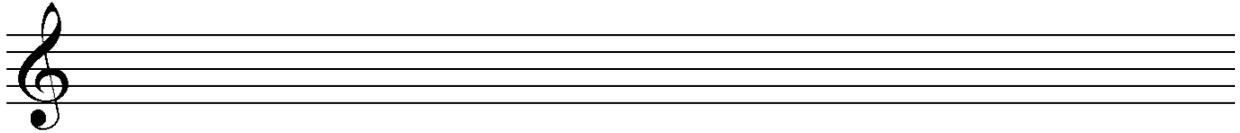


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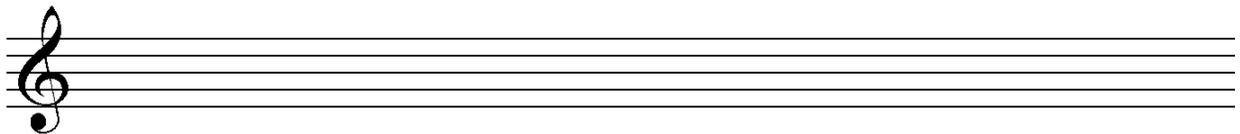
## EXERCISE

Write the following notes on the Treble Clef Staff.

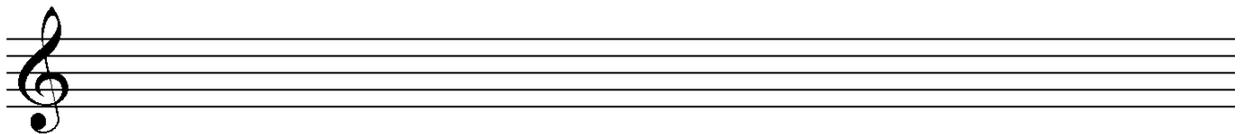
- Write at least two notes using ledger lines **BELOW** the staff
- Write at least two notes using ledger lines **ABOVE** the staff



E                    B                    F                    C                    A



D                    F                    E                    A                    G



C                    A                    B                    F                    E

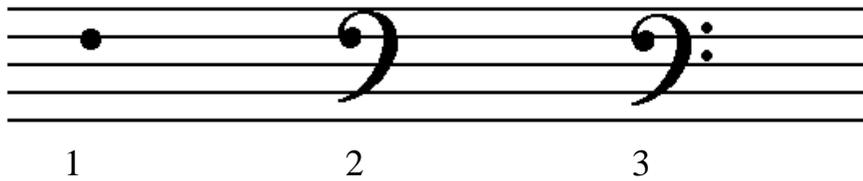
## SUMMARY

- ✓ Music is written on a **Staff** (five lines, four spaces).
- ✓ Notes can be written on lines or spaces.
- ✓ The Treble Clef circles around the note G and therefore is sometimes called the G Clef.
- ✓ The note names of the five lines are E G B D F. You can use the rhyme: **Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge**
- ✓ The note names of the four spaces are F A C E.
- ✓ Ledger lines are used to write notes higher and lower than the five lines on the staff.

## Lesson 1.3 - The Bass Clef

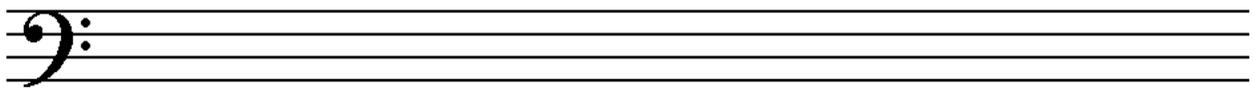
The Bass Clef  is another clef that is used in music. The Treble Clef is used for high notes and the Bass Clef is used for low notes.

Here's how to draw a Bass Clef:



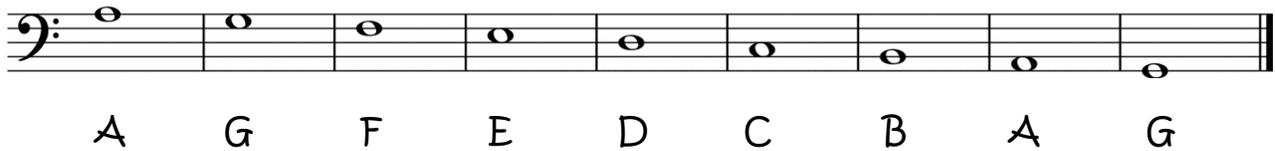
### EXERCISE

Practice drawing Bass Clefs.

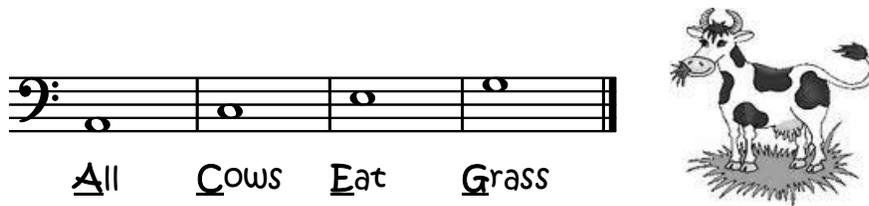


# Bass Clef Note Names

Notes can be placed on the lines or in the spaces (just like the Treble Clef staff). Here are the notes of the Bass Clef:



You can remember the notes of the Bass Clef as follows:



All Cows Eat Grass



Grounded Birds Don't Fly Away



## TIP

Notice that the Bass Clef dots are around the note F and therefore is sometimes called the F Clef.

If you need to remember where F is on the staff, just look at the Bass Clef!

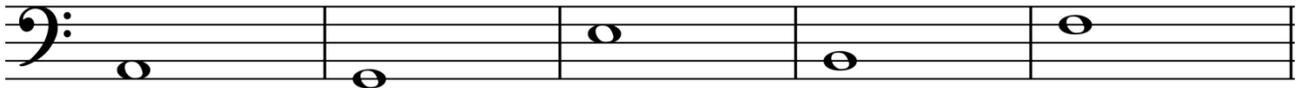


# EXERCISE

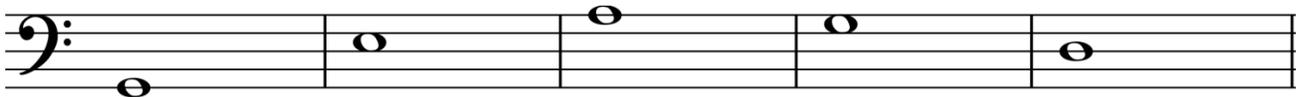
Write the name of each note.



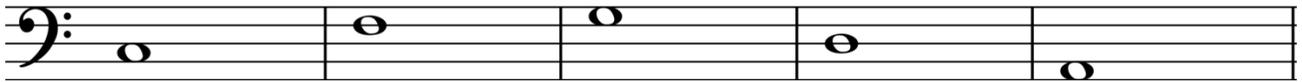
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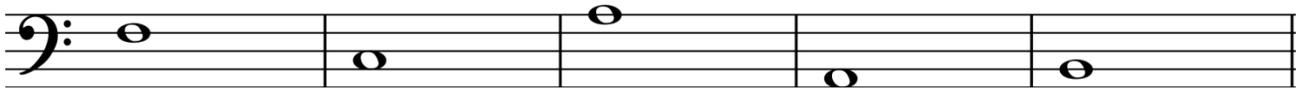
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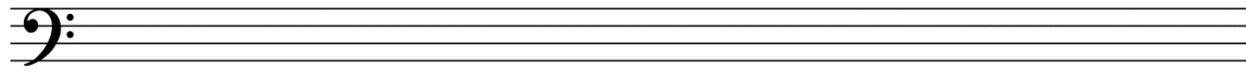
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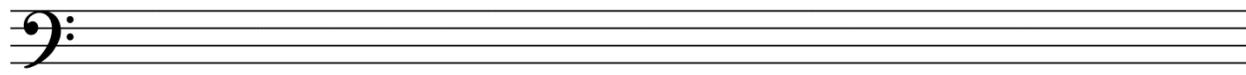
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## EXERCISE

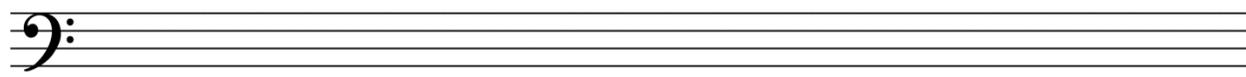
Draw the following notes on the staff.



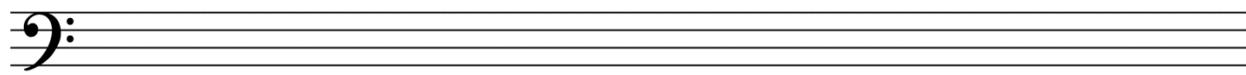
F            C            G            B            A



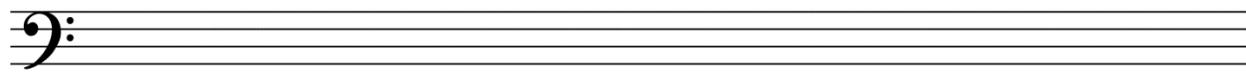
D            B            E            C            F



G            A            D            E            B



C            F            G            B            D

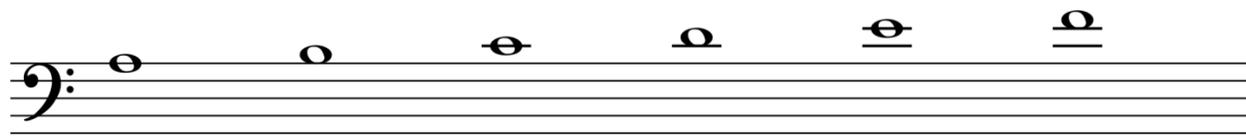


A            E            C            F            G

## Bass Clef Ledger Lines

Remember what we did when we needed to write notes above or below the Treble Clef staff? We used ledger lines! Ledger lines can also be used for the Bass Clef staff.

Ledger lines above the staff:



A musical staff with a bass clef. Six whole notes are placed on ledger lines above the staff. From left to right, the notes are on the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth ledger lines. Below each note is a letter: A, B, C, D, E, F.

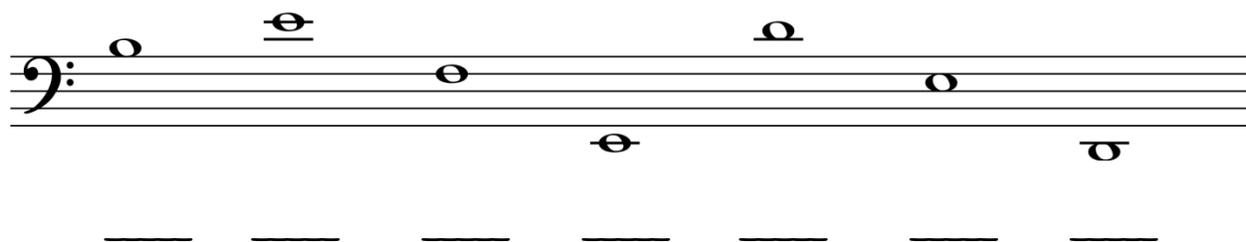
Ledger lines below the staff:



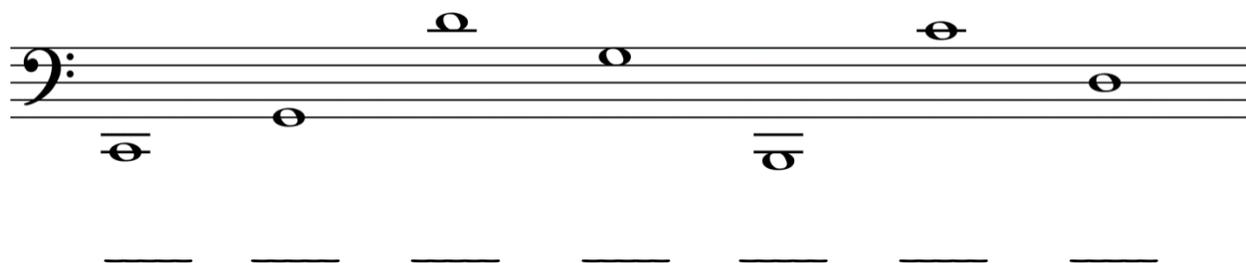
A musical staff with a bass clef. Six whole notes are placed on ledger lines below the staff. From left to right, the notes are on the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth ledger line below the staff. Below each note is a letter: G, F, E, D, C, B.

### EXERCISE

Write the names of the notes underneath the following Bass Clef Staves.



A musical staff with a bass clef. Notes are placed on ledger lines above and below the staff. From left to right: first ledger line above, second ledger line above, first line, second ledger line below, first space, second ledger line below. Below each note is a blank line for writing the note name.

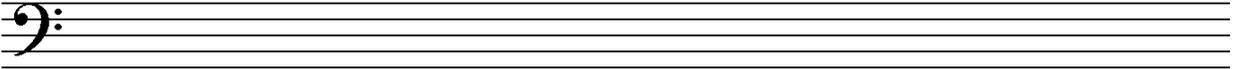


A musical staff with a bass clef. Notes are placed on ledger lines above and below the staff. From left to right: second ledger line below, first space, first ledger line below, first line, second ledger line below, second ledger line below, first space. Below each note is a blank line for writing the note name.

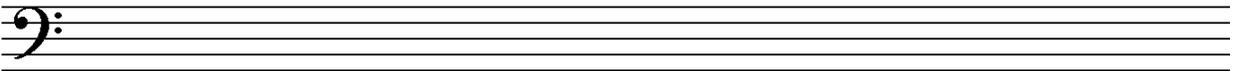
## EXERCISE

Write the following notes on the Bass Clef Staff.

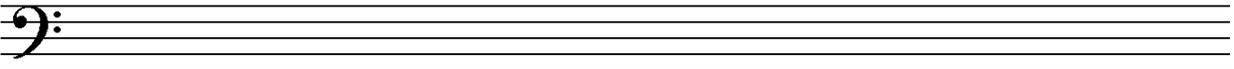
- Write at least two notes using ledger lines **BELOW** the staff
- Write at least two notes using ledger lines **ABOVE** the staff



E                  B                  F                  C                  A



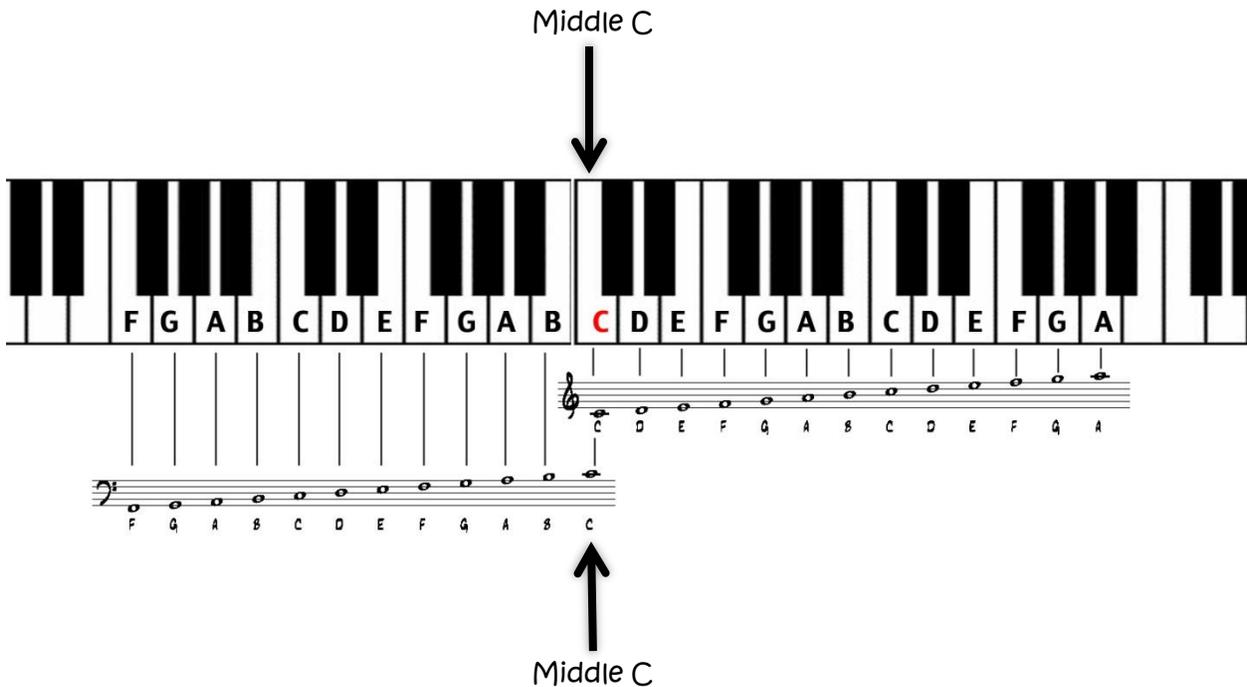
G                  D                  A                  E                  C



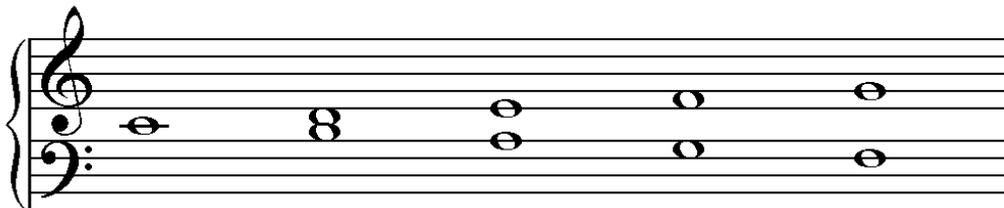
B                  G                  F                  D                  A

# Middle C

The note 'C' found on the ledger line above the Bass Clef staff is the same as the note 'C' on the ledger line below the Treble Clef staff.



This note is called 'middle C' because it is in the middle of the two staves.



## SUMMARY

- ✓ The **Bass Clef** is used at the beginning of the staff in order to write lower notes than the Treble Clef.
- ✓ The **Bass Clef** circles around **F** and therefore is sometimes called the “**F Clef**.”
- ✓ The names of the five lines are **G B D F A**. You can use the rhyme: **G**rounded **B**irds **D**on't **F**ly **A**way.
- ✓ The names of the four spaces are **A C E G**. You can use the rhyme: **A**ll **C**ows **E**at **G**rass.
- ✓ We can use ledger lines for **Bass Clef** as well as **Treble Clef** to write notes lower and higher than the notes within the 5 lines of the staff.

## Lesson 1.4 - Dynamics

Music can be made more meaningful, expressive and interesting in a number of ways. One way is to add dynamics.



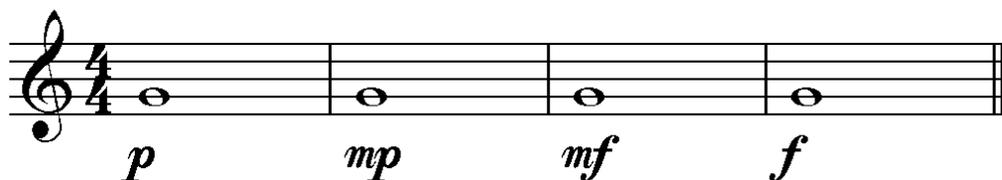
In music, **dynamics** refer to the volume – how loud or soft the notes are sung or played.

When the music is to be played **loud**, the music has a marking ***f***, which stands for ***forte***.

When the music is to be played **soft**, the music has a marking ***p***, which stands for ***piano***.

When the music is to be played at a medium dynamic, we say that it is to be played ***mezzo piano*** (medium soft) or ***mezzo forte*** (medium loud). We write these as ***mp*** and ***mf***.

From soft to loud, we have the following dynamic markings:



Why do we use **Italian** terms  
in music rather than English?

This is because many of the most important early composers in the Renaissance period were Italian (e.g. Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Palestrina)

That period is when a lot of musical indications were used extensively for the first time.

Over time, Italian terminology became the accepted standard for musicians around the world.

## Tempo

Tempo is how fast or slow a piece of music is played.

When the piece is to be played quickly,  
the tempo word is **Allegro**.  
**Allegro** is Italian for “fast.”



When the piece is to be played slowly,  
the tempo word is **Adagio**.



When the piece is to be played at a  
medium speed, the tempo is referred to  
as **Moderato**.

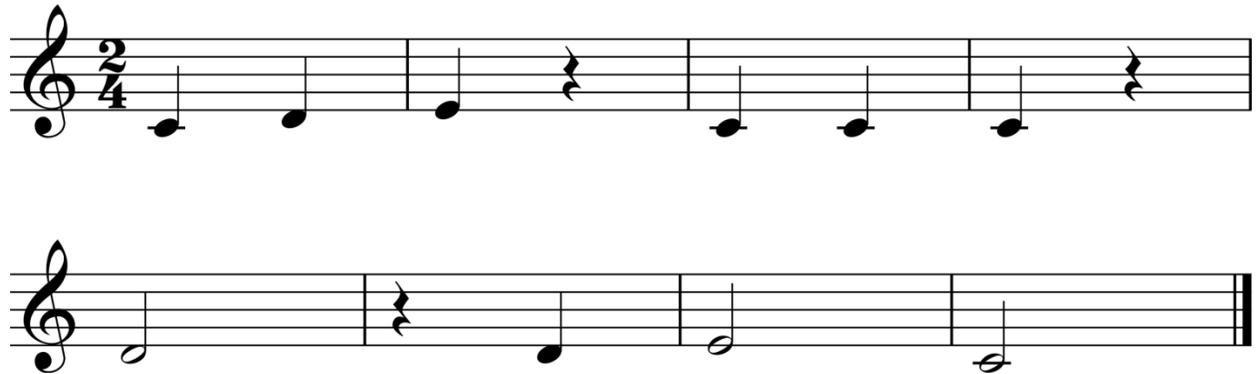
The tempo is always written at the beginning of the piece.

## EXERCISE

Now you be the composer and add **dynamic** and **tempo** markings to the following pieces.

- Use each of *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f* for dynamics. Use each dynamic at least once.
- Use Allegro, Moderato or Adagio for tempo.

(a)



(b)



(c)

Exercise (c) consists of two staves of music in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. The first staff contains four measures: the first measure has a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, and a quarter note E2; the second measure has a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1; the third measure has a half note A1 and a quarter note G1; the fourth measure has a half note F1 and a quarter rest. The second staff contains four measures: the first measure has a half note G1 and a quarter note F1; the second measure has a half note E1 and a quarter note D1; the third measure has a quarter note C1, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note A1; the fourth measure has a quarter note G1 and a quarter rest. The piece ends with a double bar line.

(d)

Exercise (d) consists of two staves of music in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first staff contains eight measures: the first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4; the second measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3; the third measure has a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note F3; the fourth measure has a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note C3; the fifth measure has a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note G2; the sixth measure has a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2; the seventh measure has a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note A1; the eighth measure has a quarter note G1 and a quarter rest. The second staff contains eight measures: the first measure has a quarter note G1, a quarter note F1, and a quarter note E1; the second measure has a quarter note D1, a quarter note C1, and a quarter note B0; the third measure has a quarter note A0, a quarter note G0, and a quarter note F0; the fourth measure has a quarter note E0, a quarter note D0, and a quarter note C0; the fifth measure has a quarter note B0, a quarter note A0, and a quarter note G0; the sixth measure has a quarter note F0, a quarter note E0, and a quarter note D0; the seventh measure has a quarter note C0, a quarter note B0, and a quarter note A0; the eighth measure has a quarter note G0 and a quarter rest. The piece ends with a double bar line.

(e)

Exercise (e) consists of two staves of music in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The first staff contains four measures: the first measure has a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, and a quarter note E2; the second measure has a half note D2; the third measure has a half note C2; the fourth measure has a half note B1. The second staff contains four measures: the first measure has a half note A1 and a half note G1; the second measure has a half note F1 and a half note E1; the third measure has a half note D1 and a half note C1; the fourth measure has a half note B0 and a half note A0. The piece ends with a double bar line.

## SUMMARY

- ✓ Music can be more exciting and expressive by adding **dynamic markings** and **tempo markings**.
- ✓ **Dynamics** tell how loud or soft the notes are supposed to be played or sung.
- ✓ From soft to loud, we have the dynamics *piano*, *mezzo piano*, *mezzo forte* and *forte*. On the music, these are written *P*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f*.
- ✓ **Tempo** is the **speed** of the music. Common tempo indications are **Allegro** (Fast), **Moderato** (Medium) and **Adagio** (Slow).

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