



## Chapter Six: Rhythm

**Rhythm** - The combinations of long and short, even and uneven sounds that convey a sense of movement. The movement of sound through time. Concepts contributing to an understanding of rhythm are:

- regular vs. irregular
- strong vs. weak
- long vs. short
- equal vs. unequal

**Beat** - The underlying, evenly spaced pulse providing a framework for rhythm.

**Meter** - The pattern in which a steady succession of rhythmic pulses is organized.

Create a steady beat by tapping your foot or clapping your hands. A metronome is a visual and auditory way to discuss the steady beat. The higher the number you set on a metronome, the more beats per minute and the faster the arm moves. I often march to a regular beat, then start to slow, speed up, slow again to demonstrate irregular beat. Use words and phrases as examples. For example - murmur has two equal syllables, but kachoo is irregular because of the accent on the second syllable. The rhythm of word syllables and accents can help students hear rhythm patterns.

**Duple meter (ap-ple)**



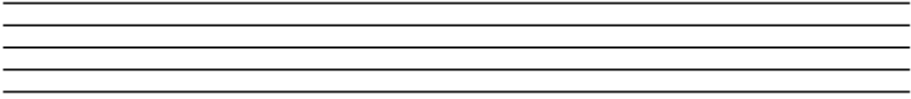

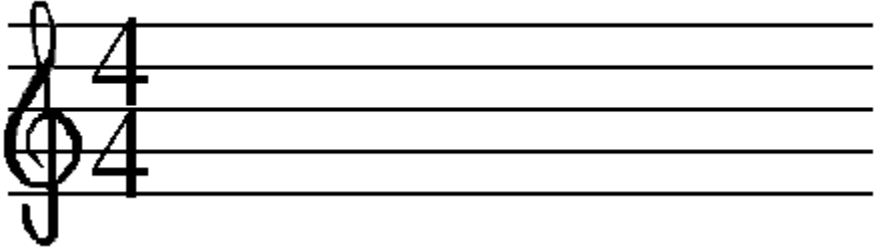
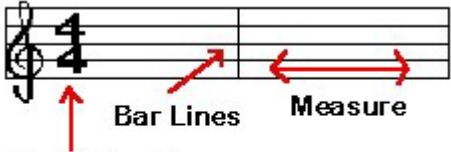
**Triple Meter (blue-ber-ry)**



Duple vs. Triple Meter - Some beats can be divided by two (duple meter) and others can be divided by three (triple meter). A waltz is in triple meter and a march is in duple. Using words, the number of syllables may be the same, but the meter is dependant on equal emphasis on each syllable. Example - "merrily" is triple meter because the word can be divided into equal parts and the accent is on the first syllable. However, "intellect" is unequal and duple because the first two symbols are duple and the final syllable requires a full beat.

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## Rhythmic Notation

<p><b>Staff</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">The staff is a musical timeline reading from left to right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5 Lines and 4 Spaces</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Musical notes on the staff sit either on a line or in a space. The placement on the staff indicates pitch. We will discuss that in the melody section of the lecture</p>
<p><b>The Treble Clef</b></p> 	<p>The <b>treble clef</b> tells us which line is going to be which note or pitch. After the clef, we see the Time Signature. This relates to rhythmic value of each note. The top number is the number of beats in each measure. The bottom number is the kind of note that will get one beat.</p> <p>The <b>Time Signature</b> appears after the clef sign on the staff. The top number indicates the number of beats in a measure and the bottom number indicates the kind of note that gets one beat.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TIME SIGNATURE:</b>  <b>4 = 4 Beats in a Measure</b>  <b>4 = Quarter Note Gets 1 Count</b></p>
<p><b>Bar Lines and Measures</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Staff is divided into equal parts called measures. Bar lines are vertical dividers. Spaces in between the bar lines are called measures.</p> <p><b>Time Signature:</b>  <b>4 = 4 beats in a measure</b>  <b>4 = Quarter note gets 1 beat</b></p>

## Mathematical Proportions in Rhythm

4 beats / 2 beats / 1 beat / 1/2 of a beat

### The Musical Rhythm Pyramid



The diagram illustrates the relationship between animal actions and musical notes, forming a pyramid structure. On the left, four animals are shown: an eagle, a penguin, a bear, and a squirrel. To their right, the corresponding musical notes are shown, with red text labels and red musical notation. The eagle is associated with a whole note, labeled "Glide - Whole Note". The penguin is associated with a half note, labeled "Slide - Half Note". The bear is associated with a quarter note, labeled "Walk - Quarter Note". The squirrel is associated with an eighth note, labeled "Run - Eighth Note". The musical notation for the eighth note is shown as two eighth notes beamed together, with the label "Run run run run" above them.

*Glide - Whole Note*

*Slide - Half Note*

*Walk - Quarter Note*

*Run - Eighth Note*

### Auditory - Visual - Kinesthetic Rhythm Activities

When teaching children the beginnings of reading rhythms....

I like to use animals when I teach about rhythm. The eagle soars for four beats. The penguin slides for two beats. The bear walks for 1 beat. The squirrel runs double-time for 1/2 of a beat. Teach the children to read and play rhythms on a drum or rhythm instruments. Clap the rhythms or put the rhythm in your feet!



### The Walking Bear

4/4 *Walk Walk Walk Walk* | *Walk Walk Walk Walk*

Quarter Notes:

The quarter note gets one beat in 4/4 time. The quarter note is colored in and has a stem. The quarter note can be thought of as a walking note. The Walking Bear walks 4 steps in a measure of 4/4 time. In 4/4 time, there are 4 quarter notes in every measure. The staff is divided by bar lines into equal parts called measures.

### The Quarter Note

4/4 *Walk Walk Walk Walk* | **Quarter Note**  
1 2 3 4 | **1 beat**

The stem could go up or down depending on where the note is on the staff. The quarter note gets one beat when the time signature indicates 4/4 time. The top 4 means that there are 4 counts or beats in a measure and the bottom 4 means that the quarter note gets one count. The bar lines are vertical lines dividing the staff into equal parts. These equal parts are called measures. In a measure of 4/4 time, 4 quarter notes fill up the whole measure. Two quarter notes equal one half note and four quarter notes equal one whole note.

For each note there is a rest of equal value. A quarter rest is silent for one beat and a quarter note is played or sung for one beat.



## Quarter Rest



## The Running Squirrel

The eighth note gets one half of a beat in 4/4 time. The eighth note is colored in, has a stem and a flag. When 2 eighth notes appear together they are connected with a beam. The eighth note can be thought of as a running note. The Running Squirrel runs 8 steps in a measure of 4/4 time. In 4/4 time, there are 8 running notes in every measure. The staff is divided by bar lines into equal parts called measures.



The stem of the eighth note could go up or down depending on where the note is on the staff. The eighth note gets one half of a beat when the time signature indicates 4/4 time. The top 4 means that there are 4 counts or beats in a measure and the bottom 4 means that the quarter note gets one count. The bar lines are vertical lines dividing the staff into equal parts. These equal parts are called measures. In a measure of 4/4 time, 8 eighth notes fill up the whole measure. Four quarter notes equal 8 eighth notes. Four eighth notes equal one half note.

## Eighth Notes



## The Eighth Note



$$1/2 + 1/2 = 1/2 + 1/2$$

For each note there is a rest of equal value. An eighth rest is silent for one half a beat and a eighth note is played or sung for one half a beat.



**Eighth Rest**



**The Sliding Penguin**



The half note gets two beats in 4/4 time. The circle of the half note is not colored in. The half note has a stem which can go up or down. The half note can be thought of as a sliding note. The Sliding Penguin slides for 2 beats as if he is skating. In 4/4 time, there are 2 half notes in every measure. The staff is divided by bar lines into equal parts called measures.



**The Half Note**



The stem could go up or down depending on where the note is on the staff. The half note gets two beats when the time signature indicates 4/4 time. The top 4 means that there are 4 counts or beats in a measure and the bottom 4 means that the quarter note gets one count. The bar lines are vertical lines dividing the staff into equal parts. These equal parts are called measures. In a measure of 4/4 time, 4 quarter notes fill up the whole measure. Two half notes equal one whole note. Two quarter notes equal one half note and four eighth notes equal one half note.

For each note there is a rest of equal value. A half rest is silent for two beats and a half note is played or sung for two beats. A half rest sits on the line.



**Half Rest**



**The Gliding Eagle**

The whole note gets four beats in 4/4 time. The whole note is not colored in and it does not have a stem. The whole note can be thought of as a gliding note. The Gliding Eagle glides for 4 counts. In 4/4 time, there is one whole note in a measure. The staff is divided by bar lines into equal parts called measures.

**The Whole Note**





The whole note is a circle. The whole note gets four beats when the time signature indicates 4/4 time. The top 4 means that there are 4 counts or beats in a measure and the bottom 4 means that the quarter note gets one count. The bar lines are vertical lines dividing the staff into equal parts.

These equal parts are called measures. In a measure of 4/4 time, 1 whole note lasts the whole measure. Four quarter notes equal one whole note. Two half notes equal one whole note.

For each note there is a rest of equal value. A whole rest is silent for four beats and a whole note is played or sung for four beats. A whole rest hangs from the line.



**Whole Rest**



**Sixteenth Notes**

### Dotted Notes



**Dotted half note.** The dot equals half the value of the note itself. In 4/4 time, the half note is worth 2 beats and the dot is worth half of 2 (1). The dotted half note would get 3 beats in 4/4 or 3/4 time.

$$2 + 1 = 3$$













**Dotted quarter note.** The dot equals half the value of the note itself. In 4/4 time, the quarter note is worth 1 beat and the dot is worth half of 1 (1/2). The dotted quarter note would get 1 and 1/2 beats in 4/4 or 3/4 time. The dotted quarter would typically be followed by an 8th note.

$$1 + 1/2 = 1 \text{ and } 1/2.$$



## Kodaly Rhythm Symbols

See the Music Methods Course Document in Unit Three. These are the syllables typically used in the Kodaly method. Included are more advanced symbols including the 16th note and dotted notes. Rhythm Signals - <http://www.classicsforkids.com/teachers/training/rchart.asp>

Symbol	Rhythm Name	Notation Name
	ta	Quarter Note
	ti-ti	2 Eighth Notes
	---	Quarter Note Rest
	tika-tika	4 Sixteenth Notes
	too	Half Note
	ti-tika	Eighth Note 2 Sixteenth Notes
	tika-ti	2 Sixteenth Notes Eighth Note
	tum-ti	Dotted Quarter Note Eighth Note
	syn-co-pa	Eighth Note, Quarter Note, Eighth Note
	tim-ka	Dotted Eighth Note Sixteenth Note

See the Rhythm Echoes Powerpoint for rhythms cards you can print to use with your class.



### Recommendation - REMO Gathering Drums

Remo Products for Education - <http://remo.com/learningcenter/index.cfm?ObjectID=501>

## Websites for Rhythm and Music Theory









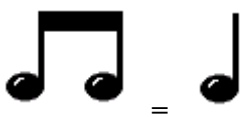
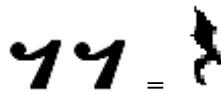
- Lesson Tutor
  - Note Values - <http://www.lesstutor.com/eesmusic4.html>
  - Rhythm - <http://www.lesstutor.com/eesmusic3.html>
- Learning Rhythm - <http://www.rubycliff.com/TheoryManual/LearnRhythm.html>
- Elements of Music - <http://www.alientravelguide.com/art/music/elementm/>
- MiBac Music Theory - [http://www.mibac.com/Pages/Theory/Main\\_Theory.htm](http://www.mibac.com/Pages/Theory/Main_Theory.htm)
- Theory Online - [http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/faculty/~cdeering/public\\_html/web139/coursecontent/musictheoryonline/unit2/index.html](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/faculty/~cdeering/public_html/web139/coursecontent/musictheoryonline/unit2/index.html)



## Rhythm and Tempo Activities

- Steady Beat - Find the beat, march the beat, tap the beat, etc.
- Conduct the beat using traditional conducting patterns.
- Clap the rhythm of syllables in names, words, phrases, etc.
- Long vs. short and fast vs. slow
- Locate the accents in words.
- Rhythm echoes with Words, Jump Rope Rhymes, phrases, etc.
- Raps and Rhymes
  - Keep a steady beat with lap, clap, tap or drums, tambourine, etc.
  - Find a recording or MIDI file of a drum beat and rap over a drumbeat.
- Rhythm Echoes - See the rhythm chapter and powerpoint presentations.
  - Aural (listening) echoes - Play a regular rhythmic pattern and have the child echo. See the rhythm echoes powerpoint presentations. Generally you will want to be consistent with your patterns. Use a 4/4 Common time signature. Make each pattern 4 beats long and stick with a walking tempo. Use rhythms with quarter notes and eighth notes in the beginning. You can begin to introduce syncopation as the children become more tuned in. Put the rhythm in your hands, your feet, or play a rhythm instrument.
  - Introduce rhythm notation See the rhythm chapter and powerpoint presentations.
    - Whole Note - Eagle - Glide 2 3 4
    - Half Note - Penguin - Slide 2 Slide 2
    - Quarter Note - Bear - Walk walk walk walk
    - Eighth Note - Squirrel - Run run run run Run run run run
- Clap rhythms of well-known songs or nursery rhymes and try to recognize the rhythm.
- Use the Indian Gathering Drum to play rhythm echoes. Make it a relay game and line the students up. As you play a 4-beat rhythm, each child echoes and hands off the beater to the next child.
- Draw a musical timeline and create symbols for long, short tones.
- Count how many beats as you play or sing tones - or watch the second hand on the clock.
- Introduce rests - timed silence.
- Introduce time signatures and count beats in measures.

- Explore duple and triple meters. 4/4 vs. 3/4
- Use a metronome to explore the beats per minute with various tempos.
- Use musical terminology for tempos - accelerando, rallentando, etc.
- For older students
  - Fractions and rhythmic proportions
  - Rhythm Math

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Note and Rest Values</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>In 4/4 Time or Common Time</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TIME SIGNATURE:</b>  <b>4 = 4 Beats in a Measure</b>  <b>4 = Quarter Note Gets 1 Count</b></p>			
Note	Rest	Name	Number of Beats
		Whole	4 counts or beats
		Half	2 counts or beats
		Quarter	1 count or beat
		Eighth	1/2 count or beat
		Two Eighths	2 8ths equal 1 quarter for 1 count total

### Dotted Notes



**Dotted half note.** The dot equals half the value of the note itself. In 4/4 time, the half note is worth 2 beats and the dot is worth half of 2 (1). The dotted half note would get 3 beats in 4/4 or 3/4 time.

$$2 + 1 = 3$$







**Dotted quarter note.** The dot equals half the value of the note itself. In 4/4 time, the quarter note is worth 1 beat and the dot is worth half of 1 (1/2). The dotted quarter note would get 1 and 1/2 beats in 4/4 or 3/4 time. The dotted quarter would typically be followed by an 8th note.

$$1 + 1/2 = 1 \text{ and } 1/2.$$

### Rhythm Math









- Music and Math - <http://www.shoal.net/music/mathmusic.htm>
- Music and Maths - <http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/music/musicand.htm>
- 12 days of Christmas - <http://www.aip.org/isns/reports/2002/058.html>
- Music in the Classroom - <http://esl.about.com/library/lessons/blbrainmusic.htm>





**Which one note would complete the measure? In 4/4 time, each measure must have 4 counts or beats.**





#1	#2	#3	#4
			





Section One: Complete the measure.





**Which one note would complete the measure? In 4/4 time, each measure must have 4 counts or beats.**





1.	#1	#2	#3	#4
   				


2.	#1	#2	#3	#4
				


3.	#1	#2	#3	#4
				


4.	#1	#2	#3	#4
				


5.	#1	#2	#3	#4
				

6.	#1	#2	#3	#4
				

7.		#1	#2	#3	#4
					






8.		#1	#2	#3	#4
					

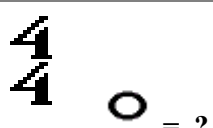




9.		#1	#2	#3	#4
					






10.		#1	#2	#3	#4
					

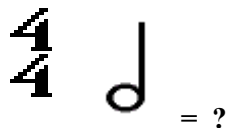




## Section Two: Notes and Rests

What rest is equal in length to these notes?

1.	#1	#2	#3	#4
 $\frac{4}{4}$ ♩ = ?				

2.	#1	#2	#3	#4
 $\frac{4}{4}$ ○ = ?				

3.	#1	#2	#3	#4
 $\frac{4}{4}$ ♪ = ?				

4.	#1	#2	#3	#4
 $\frac{4}{4}$ ♪♪ = ?				

### Section Three: Rhythm Math with Dotted Notes and Rests

Which one note or rest would complete the measure? In 4/4 time, each measure must have 4 counts or beats.






1.	#1	#2	#3	#4

2.	#1	#2	#3	#4

3.	#1	#2	#3	#4

4.	#1	#2	#3	#4



5.	#1	#2	#3	#4
				

Answers		
Section One: Complete the Measure Answers:	Section Two: Notes and Rests:	Section Three: Dotted Notes and Rests:
1. #3	1. #3	1. #3
2. #2	2. #1	2. #3
3. #3	3. #4	3. #2
4. #4	4. #2	4. #2
5. #3		5. #1
6. #4		
7. #3		
8. #2		
9. #3		
10, #2		