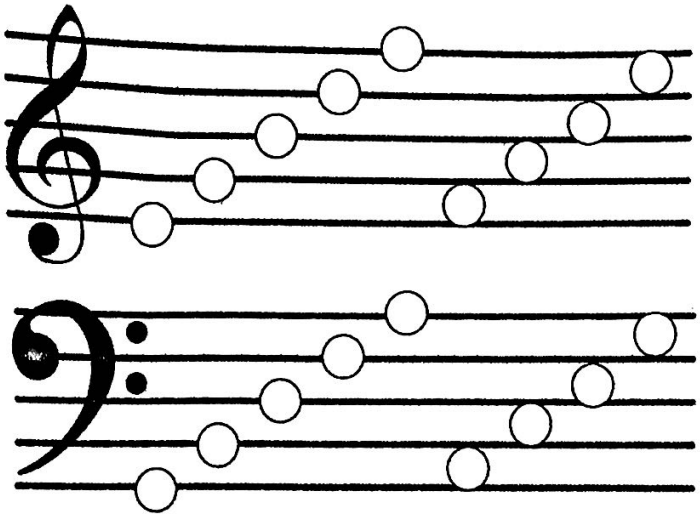
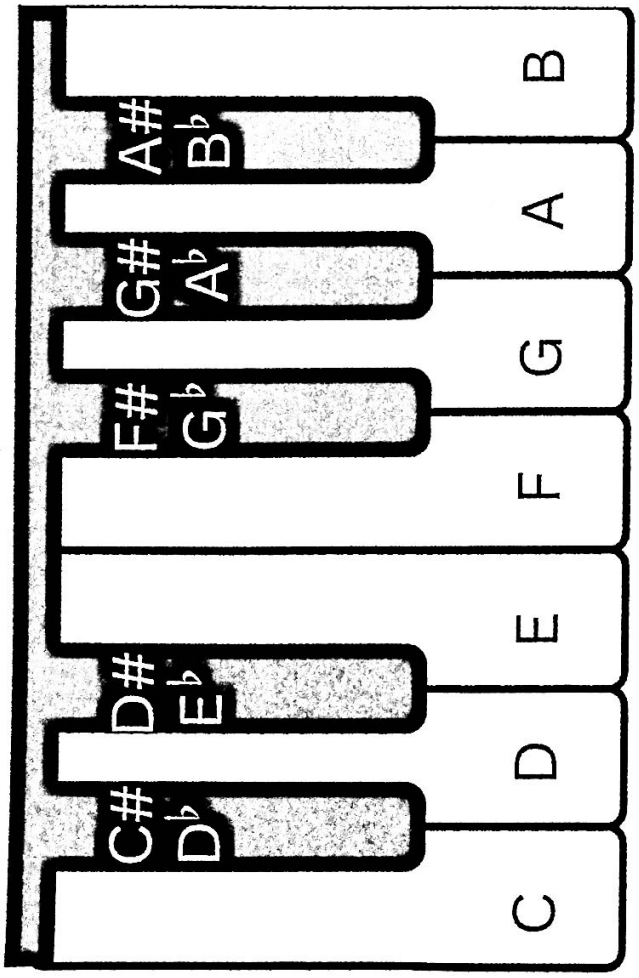
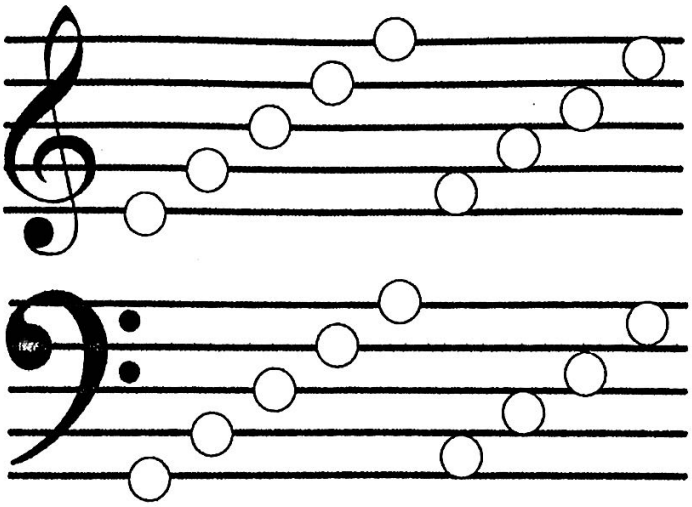


Symbol	Name	Value
𝅝	Whole	4
𝅗𝅥	Half	2
♩	Quarter	1
♪	Eighth	1/2





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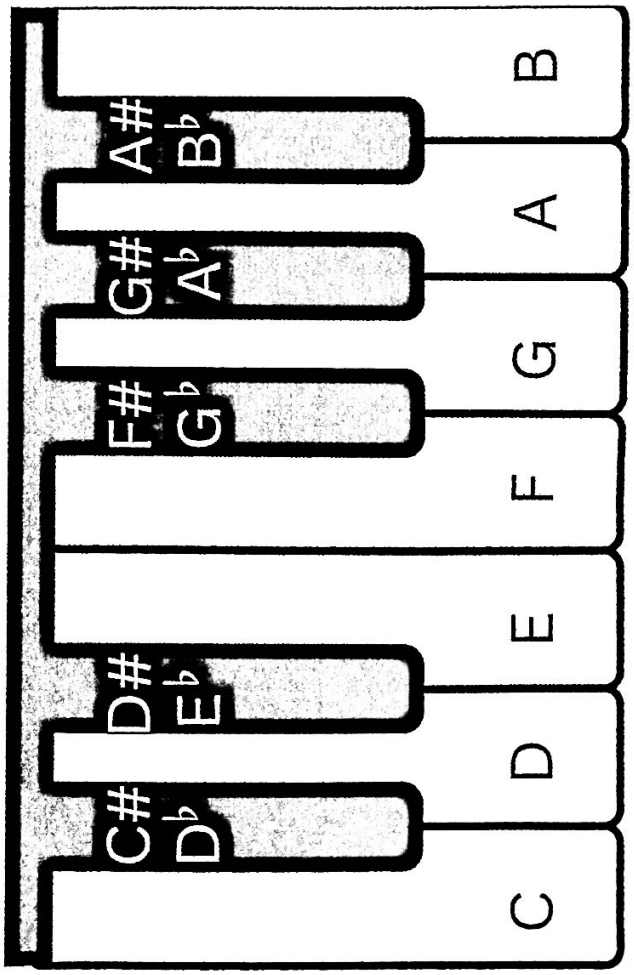
♪	Eighth	1/2



Major Key Signatures:

Sharps: Last sharp (furthest right =Ti
Flats: Last Flat (furthest right) = Fa

Do = Name of Key

♭ = lowers note 1/2 step
♯ = raises note 1/2 step
♮ = returns note to natural state
𝄐 = hold note

Major Key Signatures:

Sharps: Last sharp (furthest right =Ti
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Do = Name of Key

♭ = lowers note 1/2 step
♯ = raises note 1/2 step
♮ = returns note to natural state
𝄐 = hold note

Essential Pre-AP Music Theory Vocabulary and Skills

Vocabulary - Be prepared for a test on these vocabulary words.
Many of these terms may be familiar to you.

Fundamentals of music
Pitch
Duration
Rhythm
Meter
Time signature
Melody
Harmony
Timbre
Tie
Dotted rhythm
Syncopation
Flag
Beam
Stem
Note head
Tuplets / triplets
Staff / staves
Grand staff
Treble clef (G clef)
Bass clef (F clef)
Alto clef, Tenor clef (moveable C clef)
Ledger line
Stepwise motion
Ascending
Descending
Key signature
Accidental
Sharp
Flat
Double flat
Double sharp
Natural
Enharmonic equivalent
Roman numerals
Arabic numerals

Articulations
Pizzicato
Arco
Slur
Staccato
Legato
Tenuto
Accent

Dynamics
Pianissimo (*pp*)
Piano (*p*)
Mezzo piano (*mp*)
Mezzo forte (*mf*)
Forte (*f*)
Fortissimo (*ff*)
Crescendo (*cresc.*)
Decrescendo (*decresc.*)
Diminuendo (*dim.*)
Subito

Instruments/Vocal Ranges
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Woodwind
Brass
Percussion
Strings
Keyboard

Tempi
Grave
Langsam
Largo
Lento
Adagio
Andantino
Andante
Allegretto
Allegro
Maestoso
Moderato
Vivace
Presto
Rubato
Ritardando (*rit.*)
Ritenuto (*rit.*)
Rallentando (*rall.*)
Meno mosso
Piu mosso
Accelerando (*accel.*)
Stringendo
A tempo
Molto
Poco a poco

Form
Repeat
First and second ending
D.C. (da capo)
D.S. (del segno)
Fine
Introduction
Coda
Verse
Chorus
Phrase
Anacrusis / Pick up note(s)
Fermata
Key change / Modulation

Scales and modes
Ascending
Descending
Half steps
Whole steps
Steps
Skips
Leaps
Interval
Unison
Octave
Major scale
Minor scale
Whole tone scale
Pentatonic scale
Chromatic scale
Relative major
Relative minor
Parallel major
Parallel minor
Arpeggio
Diatonic
Nondiatonic

Essential Skills - Be prepared for a test on these skills:

- Demonstrate basic calligraphy for music in PENCIL. (Which side of the note head has the beam? In which direction does the stem go? How long should the stems be? How does the note spacing look? On which side of the note is the accidental located? Etc.)
- Construct ascending and descending chromatic scales from memory and in pencil.
- Write all major scales from memory and in pencil.
- Identify and construct all major key signatures.
- Identify major and minor tonality by ear.
- Identify notes on the piano.
- Identify and construct whole steps and half steps.
- Identify and construct harmonic and melodic intervals.
- Read notes in treble clef, bass clef, alto clef, and tenor clef.
- Identify the function of both the top and bottom numbers in a time signature.
- Clap basic rhythms in 4/4 (common time), 3/4, 2/4, 12/8, 9/8, 6/8, 3/8, 2/2 (cut time), and 3/2.
- Demonstrate correct beaming for eighth notes and sixteenth notes in the above time signatures.
- Demonstrate the ability to read and write roman numerals.

Practice What You Know

dynamics terms

Directions: Sort the dynamic terms as indicated. Google any term unfamiliar to you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Rewrite the following dynamic terms from SOFTEST to LOUDEST.

FORTE	PIANO	MEZZO FORTE	MEZZO PIANO

_____

softest.....loudest

2. Rewrite the following tempo terms from SOFTEST to LOUDEST.

PIANISSIMO	FORTISSIMO	PIANO	FORTE

_____

softest.....loudest

3. Cross out any terms that do NOT mean to **gradually get louder**.

PIZZICATO	STACCATO	ACCELERANDO	CRESCENDO

4. Cross out any terms that do NOT mean to **gradually get softer**.

RITENUTO	DIMINUENDO	DECRESCENDO	TENUTO

5. What does **POCO A POCO** mean? _____

6. What does **SUBITO** mean? _____

7. What does **MOLTO** mean? _____

Practice What You Know

tempo terms

Directions: Sort the tempo terms as indicated. Google any term unfamiliar to you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Rewrite the following tempo terms from SLOWEST to FASTEST.

ANDANTE	MODERATO	ADAGIO

slowest.....fastest

2. Rewrite the following tempo terms from SLOWEST to FASTEST.

MAESTOSO	VIVACE	LARGO

slowest.....fastest

3. Rewrite the following tempo terms from SLOWEST to FASTEST.

GRAVE	ANDANTINO	PRESTO

slowest.....fastest

4. Rewrite the following tempo terms from SLOWEST to FASTEST.

ANDANTE	LANGSAM	MODERATO

slowest.....fastest

Practice What You Know — tempo terms

5. Rewrite the following tempo terms from SLOWEST to FASTEST.

PRESTO	MODERATO	GRAVE	LARGO

slowest.....fastest

6. Rewrite the following tempo terms from SLOWEST to FASTEST.

ANDANTINO	VIVACE	LENTO	ANDANTE

slowest.....fastest

7. Rewrite the following tempo terms from SLOWEST to FASTEST.

MAESTOSO	ANDANTE	LANGSAM	PRESTO

slowest.....fastest

8. Cross out any terms that do NOT mean to **gradually decrease speed**.

DECRESCENDO	RITARDANDO	RALLENTANDO	A TEMPO

9. Cross out any terms that do NOT mean to **gradually increase speed**.

ACCELERANDO	RUBATO	STRINGENDO	FERMATA

10. Cross out any terms that do NOT have anything to do with **tempo**.

RUBATO	ENHARMONIC	STACCATO	ARCO

Let's Learn Music Theory

adding stems to note heads

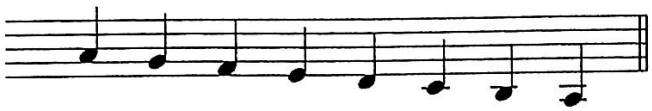
Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples carefully before completing Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

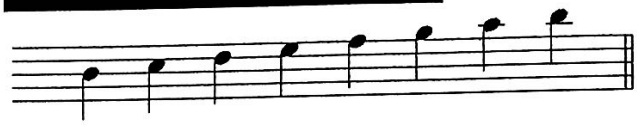
Date: _____

1. To be successful in a music theory course, you must be able to draw notes quickly and correctly. For notes from the second space down, stems go up and on the right. For notes on the third space and up, stems go down and on the left. Notes will look like d's and p's. Study the examples carefully.

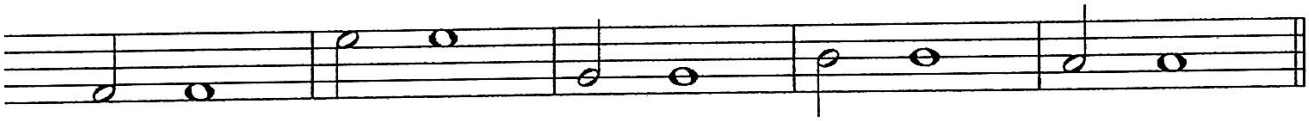
Stems Go Up and to the Right



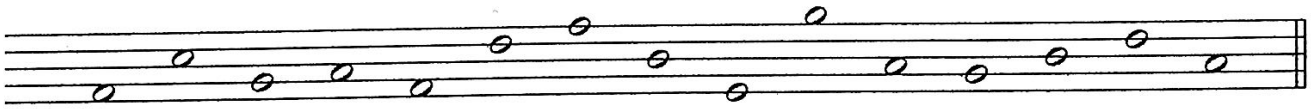
Stems Go Down and to the Left



2. Turn whole notes into half notes by adding stems in the exercise below. Each measure starts with an example half note. Take careful note of the length of the stems, and add stems of the same length.

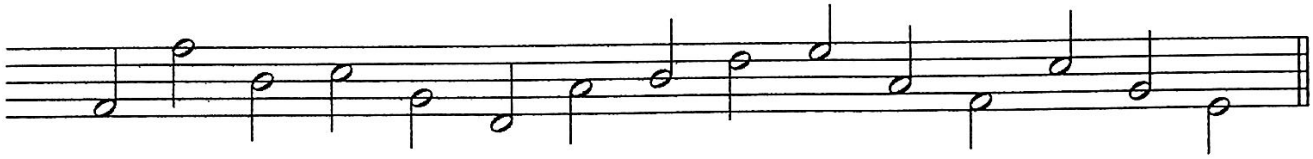


3. Turn whole notes into half notes by adding stems. Remember the direction rules you learned above.



4. Continue practicing drawing stems on these quarter notes.

5. Place an X on any note that is drawn incorrectly below.



METEROLOGY AND RHYTHMOLOGY

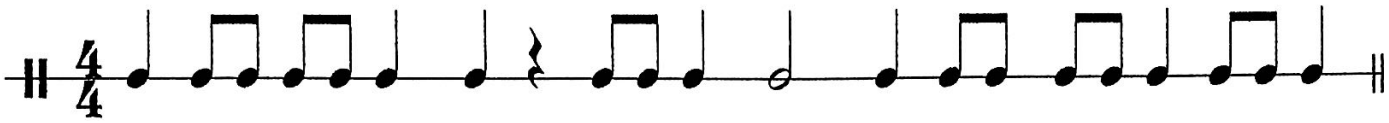
simple meter #1: adding barlines

Directions: Barlines are missing from the examples below. Write the counts under each measure and add the missing barlines.

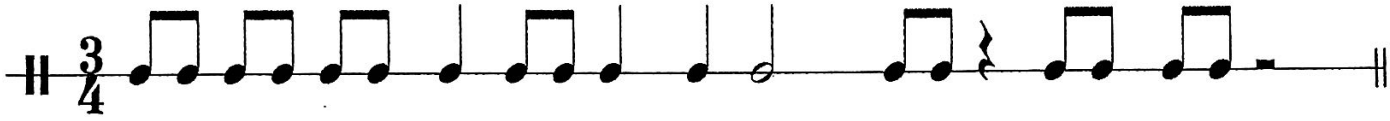
Name: _____

Date: _____

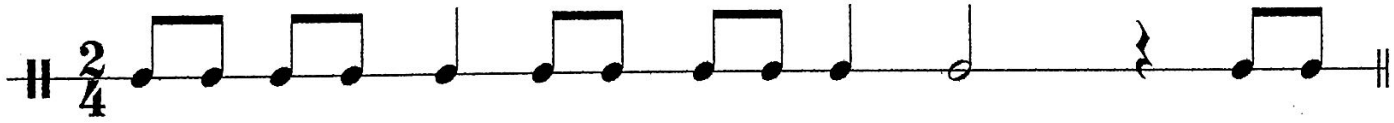
1. Four-Four Meter



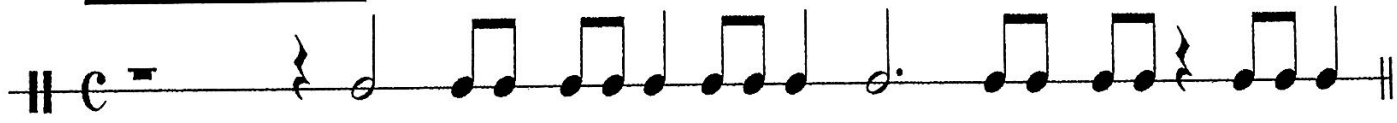
2. Three-Four Meter



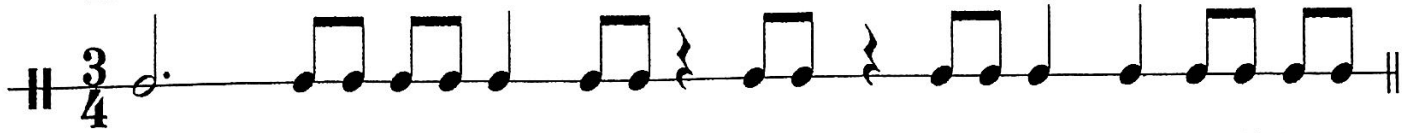
3. Two-Four Meter



4. Common Time



5. Three-Four Meter



Let's Learn Music Theory

reading notes in treble and bass clef

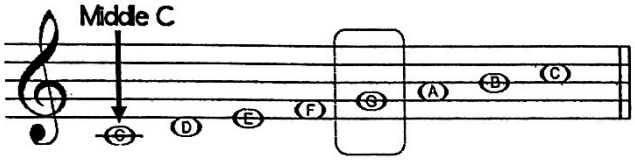
Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples carefully before completing. Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

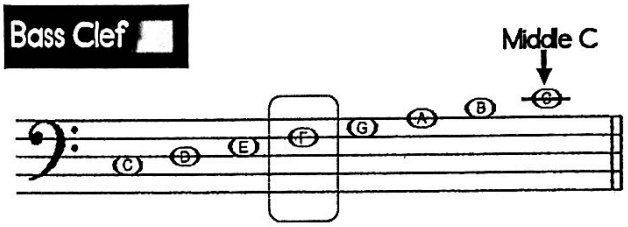
Date: _____

1. Treble clef and bass clef are the most commonly used clefs. Middle C is located on one ledger line below the staff for treble clef and one ledger line above the staff for bass clef. Treble clef is also known as "G clef" because the swirl in the clef curves around the note G. Bass clef is also known as "F clef" because the dots surround F.

Treble Clef

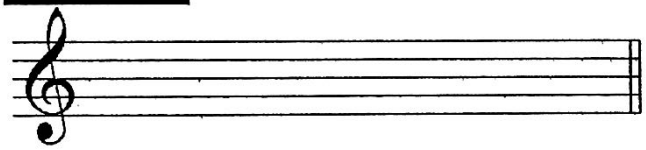


Bass Clef

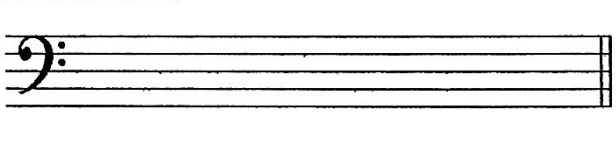


2. Practice drawing each clef below.

Treble Clef

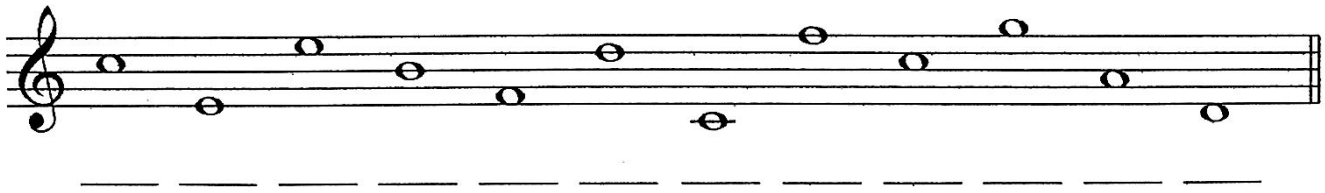


Bass Clef



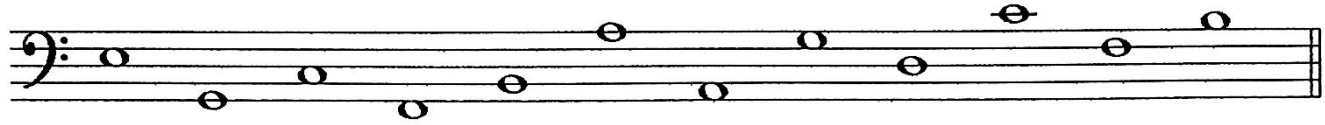
3. Identify the notes shown below.

Treble Clef



_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Bass Clef



_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Let's Learn Music Theory

reading notes in alto and tenor clef

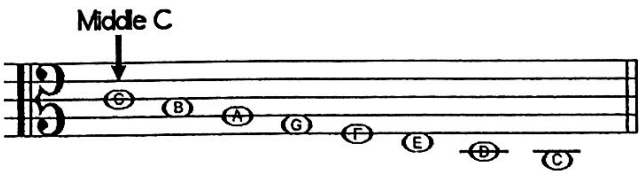
Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples carefully before completing Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

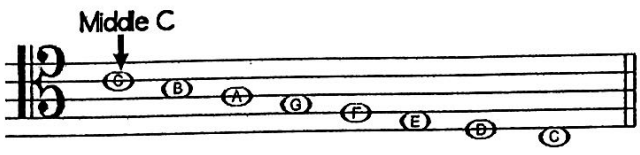
Date: _____

1. Alto Clef and Tenor Clef are also known as "moveable C-clef" because of the clef can be moved up or down on the staff. "Middle C" will always be marked by middle divot in the clef.

Alto Clef

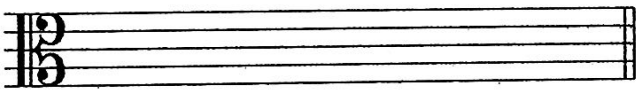


Tenor Clef

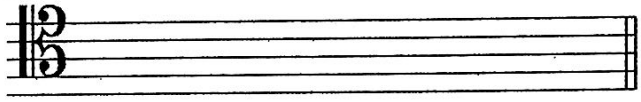


2. Tenor clef is read by cello, bassoon, trombone and a few instruments in their upper register only, while viola is the only instrument that reads alto clef. Practice drawing each clef below.

Alto Clef

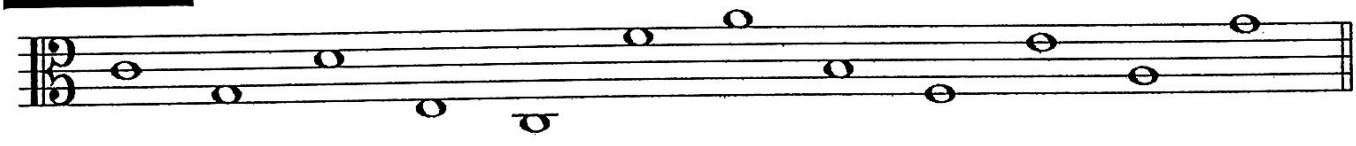


Tenor Clef



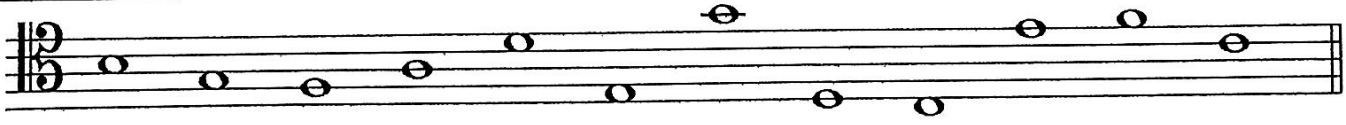
3. Identify the notes shown below.

Alto Clef



_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Tenor Clef



_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

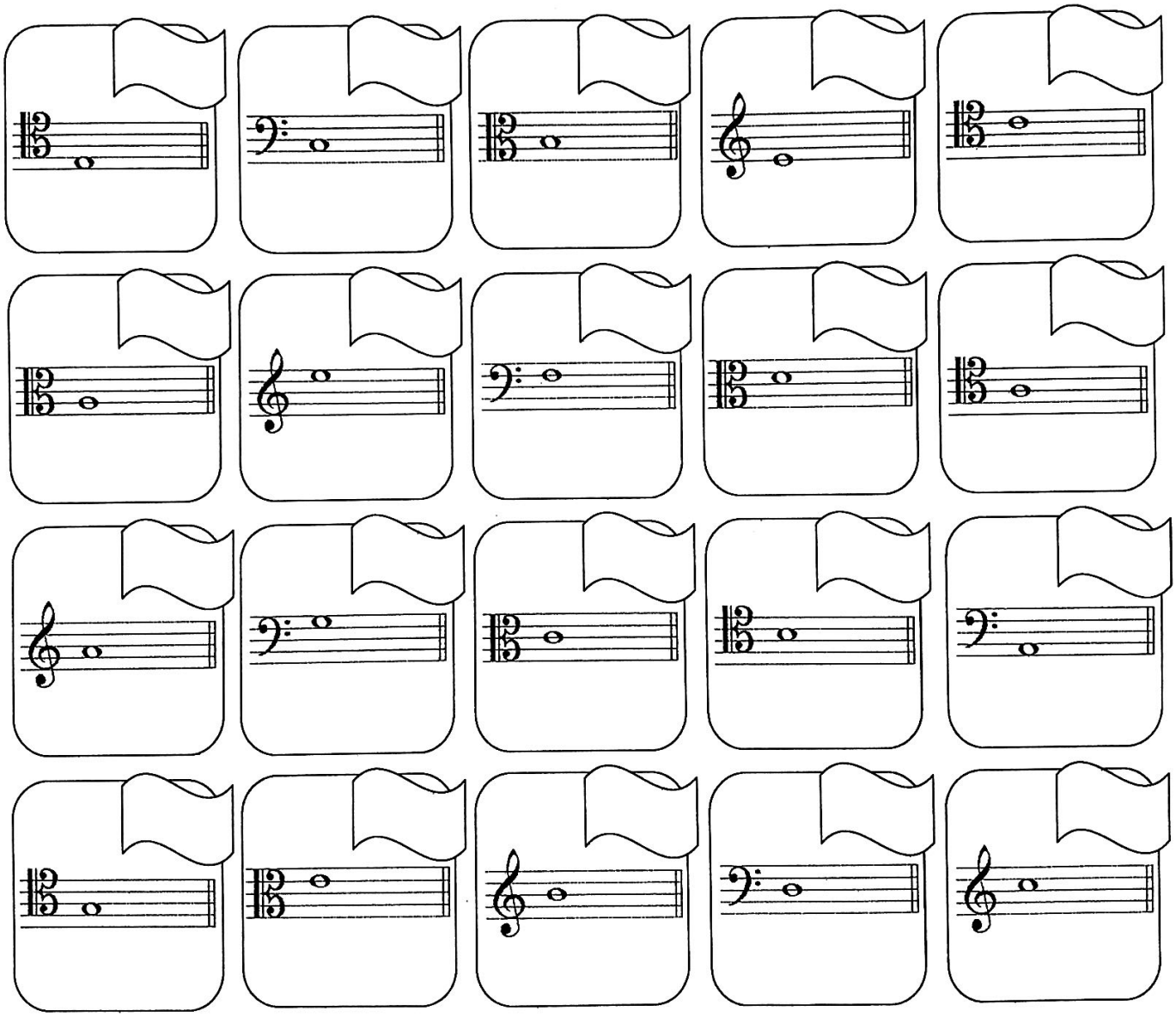
Practice What You Know

notes in all clefs

Directions: Identify the note in the flags provided.. Pay careful attention to the clef in each example.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Let's Learn Music Theory

accidentals #1

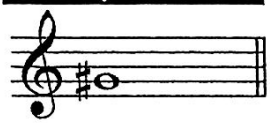
Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples carefully before completing Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

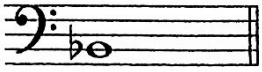
Date: _____

1. A **sharp** raises notes a half step. A **flat** lowers notes a half step. A **natural** cancels a flat or sharp.

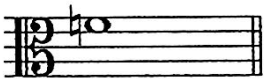
C-Sharp



B-Flat



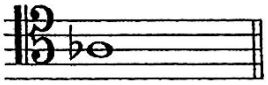
F-Natural



2. Collectively, the symbols for sharp, flat, and natural are known as **accidentals**.

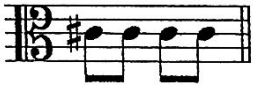
3. Accidentals are always placed to the left of noteheads. Observe the placement of accidentals in the examples shown.

Accidentals go to the left of notes.

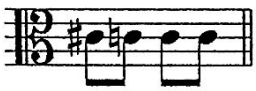


4. Accidentals carry through the measure unless notated otherwise. Two examples are shown on the right. In the first example, all notes are C-sharp; in the second example, only the first note is C-sharp.

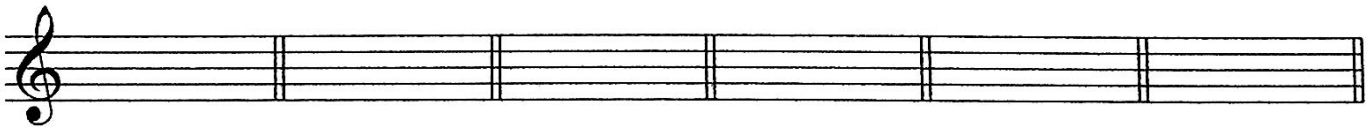
All notes are C-sharp.



Only the first note is C-sharp.



5. Draw the indicated notes as **half notes**. Review the rules for where to place stems on note heads before beginning. (Does the stem go up or down? Does the stem belong on the left or right?)



F# B*b* D# A*b* C# E*b*

6. Draw the indicated notes as **quarter notes.**

D*b* G# E*b* C# G*b* A#

Let's Learn Music Theory

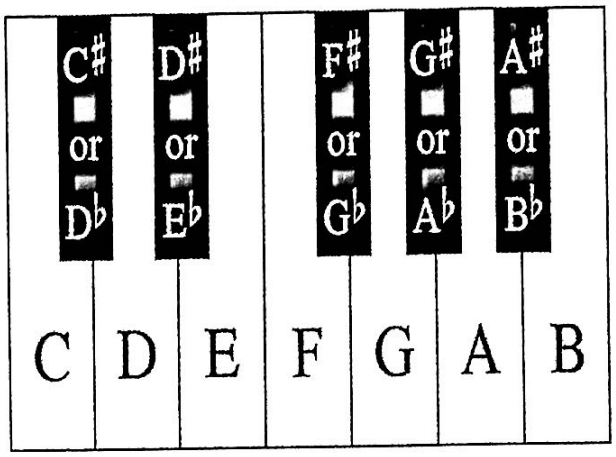
the chromatic scale

Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples carefully before completing Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Study the keyboard on the right. The white keys are simply the notes in the music alphabet; but each black key has two names. **Sharp** simply means one **half step** (or in this case, one key higher) than the original note, while **flat** means one **half step** (again one key) lower than the original note. Note names that refer to the same key on the keyboard are called **enharmonic equivalents**.



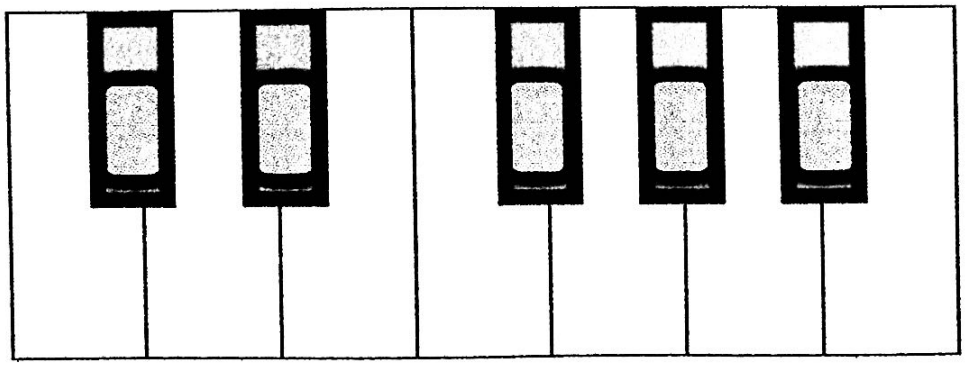
2. Notice above that there is no black key between E & F or between B & C.

3. The **chromatic scale** refers to all the notes show on the keyboard listed in order. When writing an **ascending** scale, we use the sharp names for the black keys, but when writing a **descending** scale, we use the flat names for the black keys.

Ascending Chromatic Scale C C♯ D D♯ E F F♯ G G♯ A A♯ B C

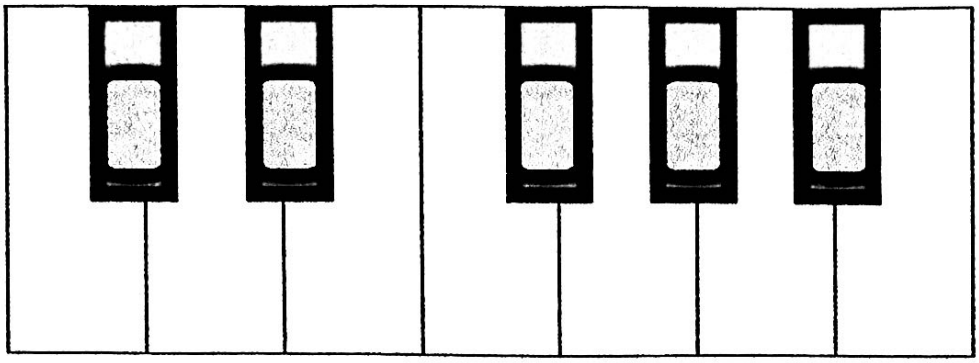
Descending Chromatic Scale C B B♭ A A♭ G G♭ F E E♭ D D♭ C

3. Label the keyboard below. Include both the sharp and flat names for black keys.



Let's Learn Music Theory — chromatic scale

4. Label the keyboard again without peeking at page one.



5. Write out the notes of an **ascending chromatic scale**, starting on C and ending on B. Use sharp names of notes where needed. Do NOT use any flat names.

Ascending Chromatic Scale

C ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ B

6. Write out the notes of an **descending chromatic scale**, starting on B and ending on C. Use flat names of notes where needed. Do NOT use any sharp names.

Descending Chromatic Scale

B ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ C

6. Give **enharmonic equivalents** for the notes listed below.

$C^{\sharp} =$ _____ $E^{\flat} =$ _____ $A^{\sharp} =$ _____

$B^{\flat} =$ _____ $G^{\sharp} =$ _____ $G^{\flat} =$ _____

$F^{\sharp} =$ _____ $D^{\flat} =$ _____ $D^{\sharp} =$ _____

Music Theory Coloring Activity

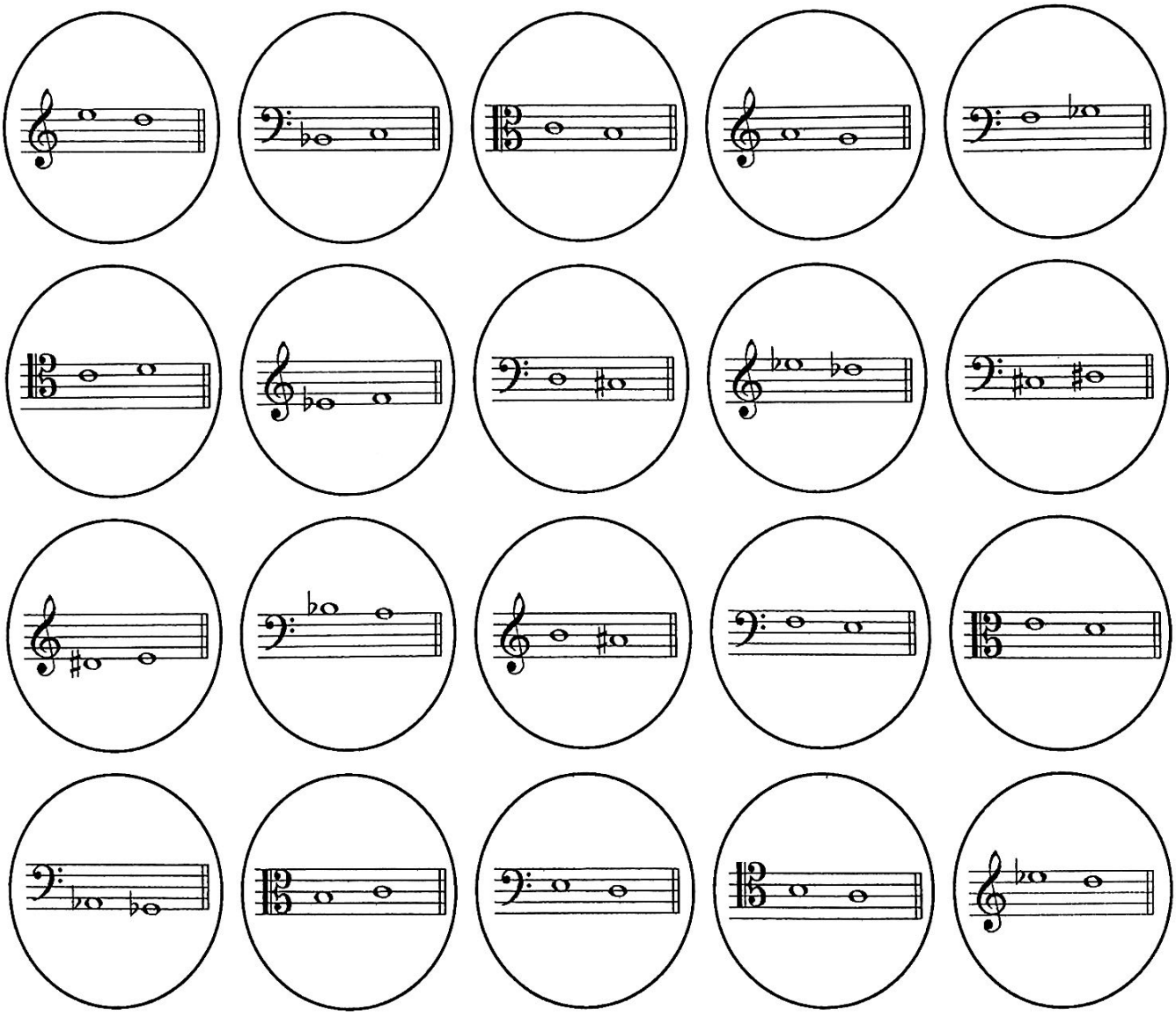
half steps and whole steps

Directions: Identify the half steps and whole steps by coloring the circles with colored pencils.

Color the half steps purple, and color the whole steps green.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Let's Learn Music Theory

Steps, Skips, & Leaps

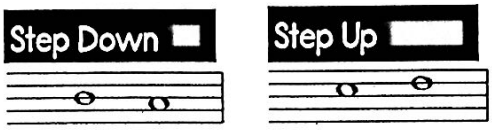
Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples carefully before completing Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

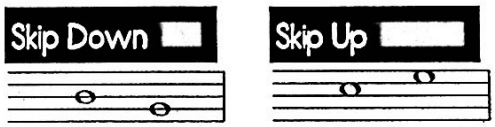
Date: _____

1. A musical **interval** is the distance between two notes. These can be described by ordinal number (second, third, fourth, etc.) or by the terms **step**, **skip**, or **leap**. Intervals can be ascending (going up) or descending (going down).

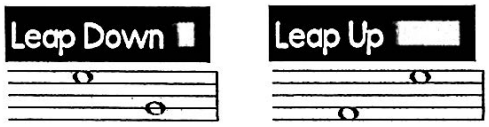
2. A **step** is the distance between a note and its immediate scalar neighbor. Steps can go up or down, but they are always the next note up or down.



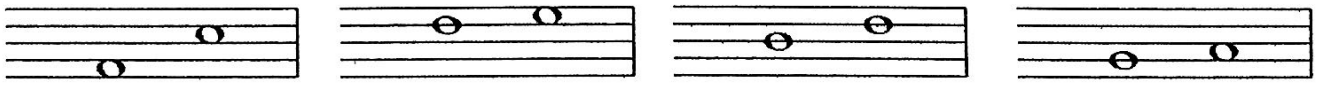
3. A **skip** is the distance equal to two steps. When looking at notes written on the staff, you'll notice that skips are line to next line or space to next space.



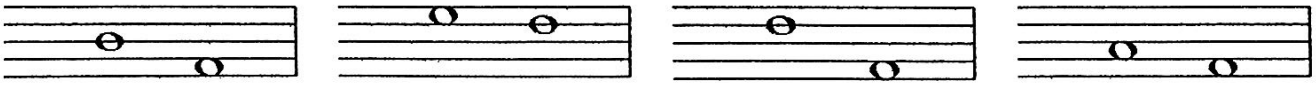
4. A **leap** refers to any interval larger than a skip. A leap can be large or small, but it is always larger than a skip.



5. Label the following ascending pairs as step, skip, or leap.



6. Label the following descending pairs as step, skip, or leap.



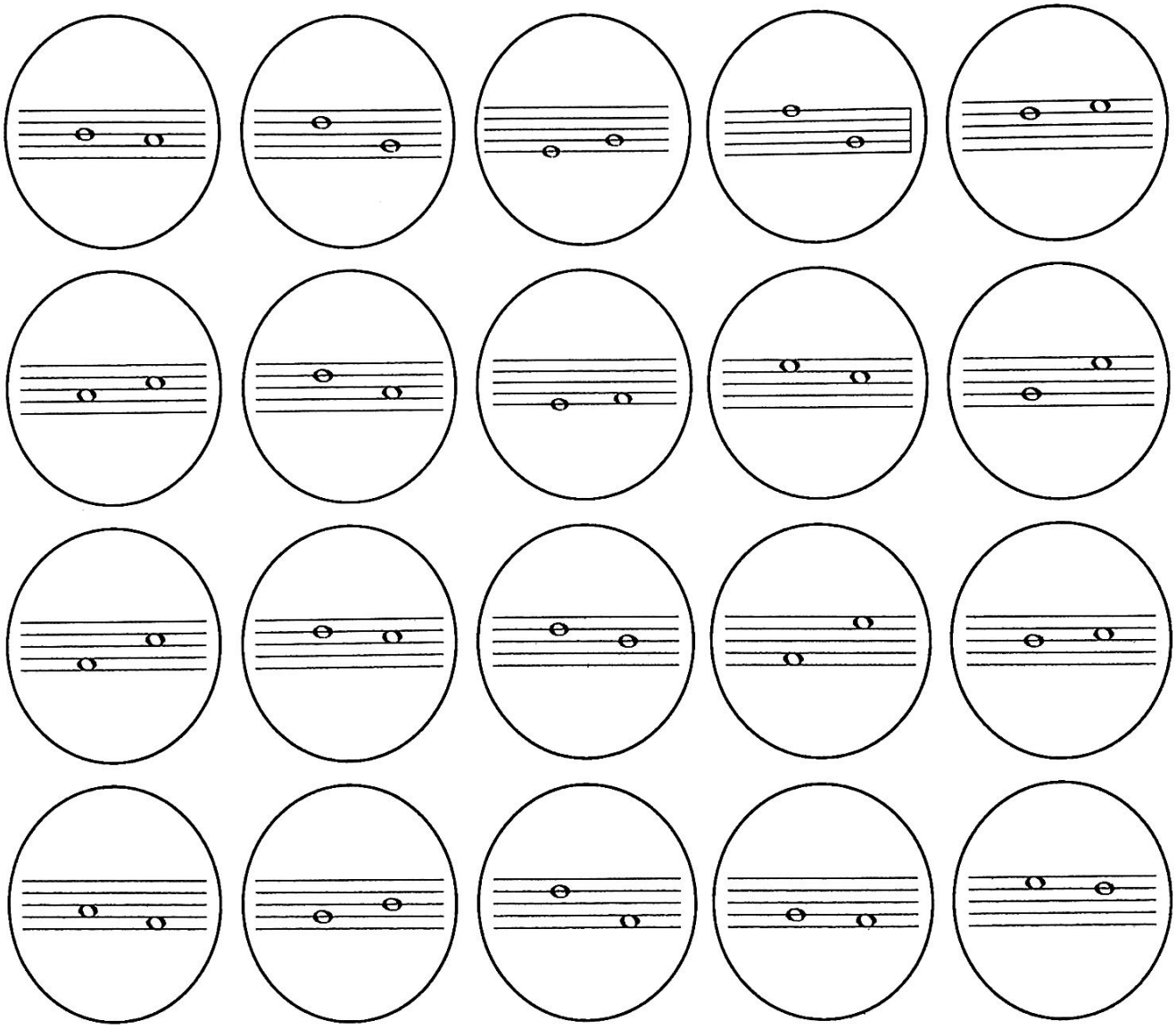
Music Theory Coloring Activity

Steps, Skips, and Leaps

Directions: Identify the intervals as steps, skips, and leaps by coloring the circles with colored pencils. Color the "steps" blue. Color the "skips" red. Color the "leaps" yellow.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Let's Learn Music Theory

intervals BY number

Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples carefully. Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

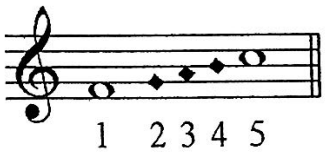
Date: _____

1. Musical **interval** is the distance between two notes. Intervals are identified by **ordinal number** (2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.) and **quality** (major, minor, perfect, augmented, and diminished). For this introduction, you will only determine the intervals by number. You will learn to identify the quality in a later activity.

2. To measure the interval between two pitches, count all pitches between the pitches as well as both pitches themselves. For example, to determine the interval between **F** and **C**, count **F, G, A, B, C** (or **1, 2, 3, 4, 5**) to get an interval of a "**fifth.**" Remember to use "ordinal numbers" ("fifth" not "five").

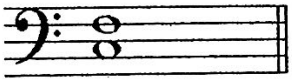
Example of a "Fifth"

To determine the interval, count all pitches between the notes.

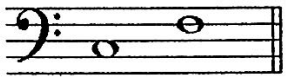


3. Simultaneous (at the same time) notes form **harmonic** intervals.
Sequential (one after the other) notes form **melodic** intervals.

Harmonic Interval

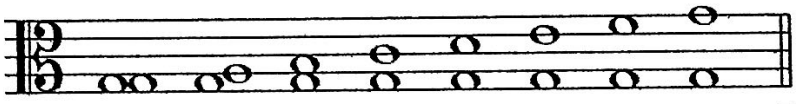


Melodic Interval



4. Two intervals have special names: firsts are called "**unison,**" and eighths are called "**octaves.**" Always use these special names for these intervals instead of the ordinal numbers.

5. Study the example below of harmonic intervals.



← **Use this Abbreviation for Octave**

6. Refer back to this sheet for help as you complete practice activities related to intervals.

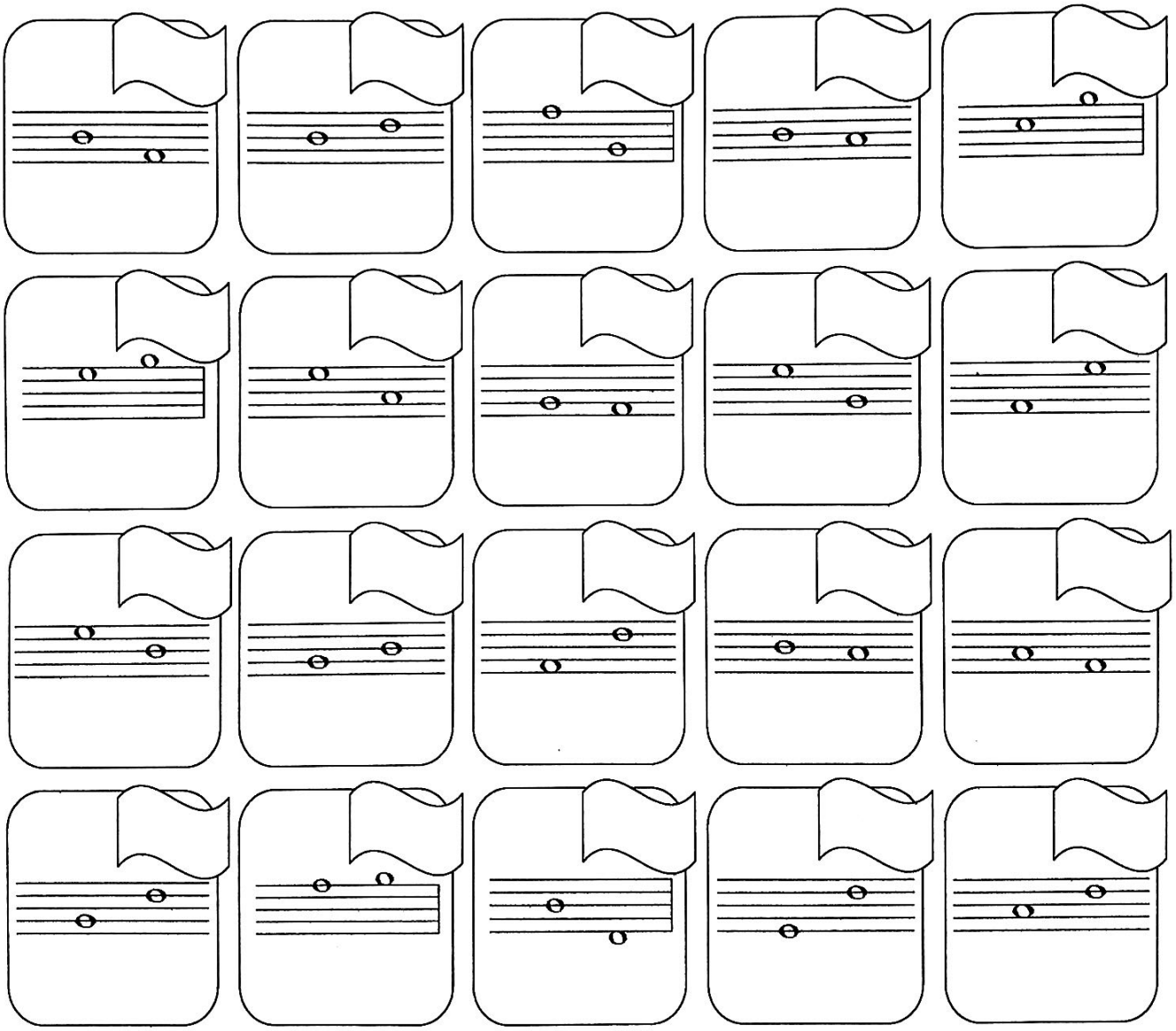
Practice What You Know

intervals

Directions: Identify intervals in the flags provided.. Your answers will be numbers. You do NOT need to identify quality of the interval (major, minor, etc.)

Name: _____

Date: _____



Let's Learn Music Theory

building major triads

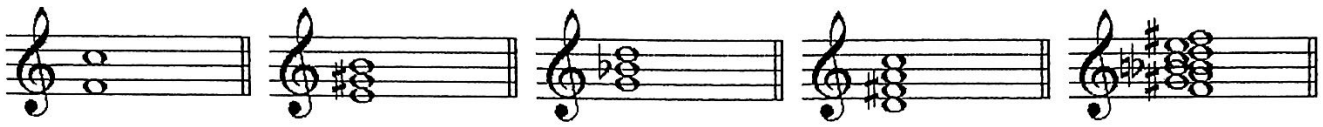
Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples carefully before completing Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

Date: _____

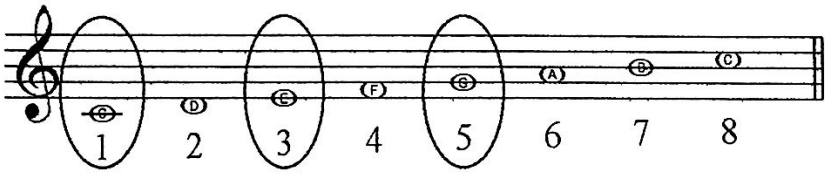
1. In music, **chords** refer to any two or more *different* pitches (also known as notes) sounding together. To be considered a chord, the notes sounding together cannot have the same name.

F Power Chord | **E Major Chord** | **C Minor Chord** | **D Dominant 7** | **Tone Cluster**

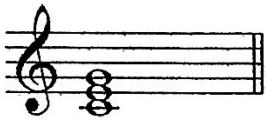


2. Most music you have heard is based on **triadic harmony** or harmony built on **triads**. These three-note **chords** are built on the first, third, and fifth note of a major or minor scale.

The C Major Scale

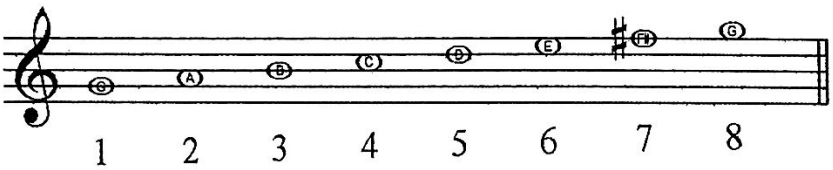


The C Major Triad

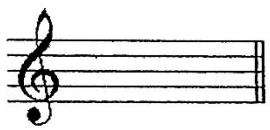


3. In the scales below, circle the first, third, and fifth notes of the scale, and draw the chord in the space provided.

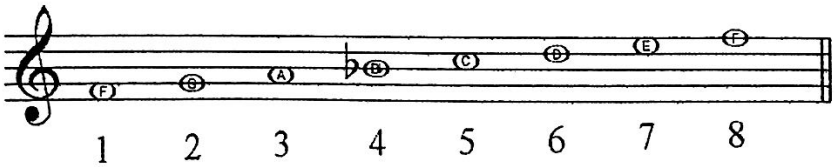
The G Major Scale



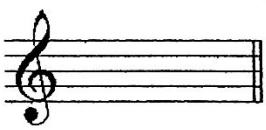
The G Major Triad



The F Major Scale



The F Major Triad



Practice What You Know

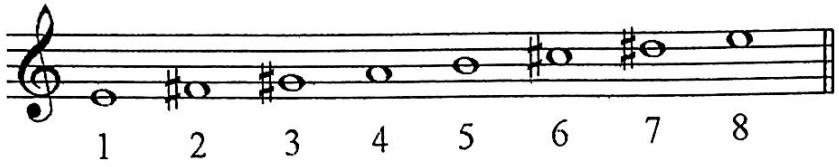
building triads

Directions: Circle the first, third, and fifth note of each major scale. Draw the triad in the staff provided on the right. Include accidentals as needed.

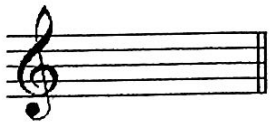
Name: _____

Date: _____

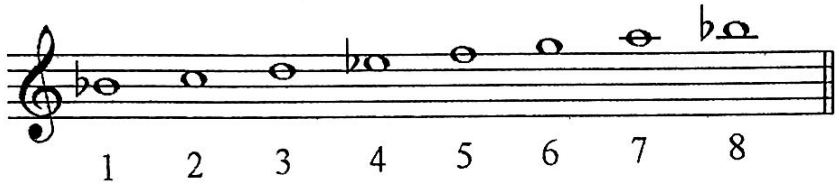
The E Major Scale



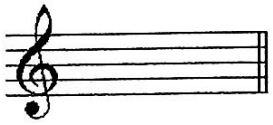
The E Major Triad



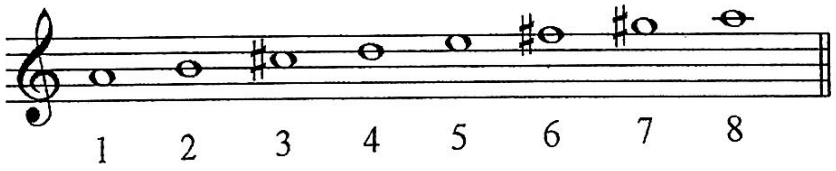
The B♭ Major Scale



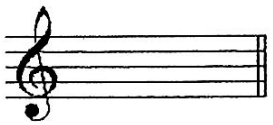
The B♭ Major Triad



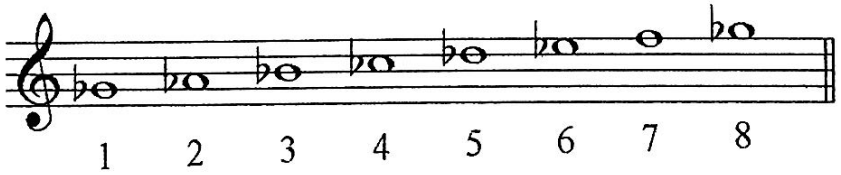
The A Major Scale



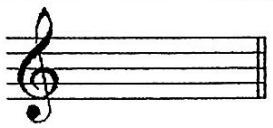
The A Major Triad



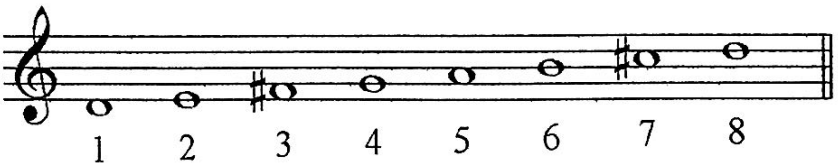
The G♭ Major Scale



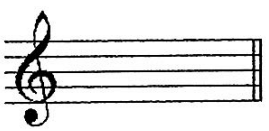
The G♭ Major Triad



The D Major Scale

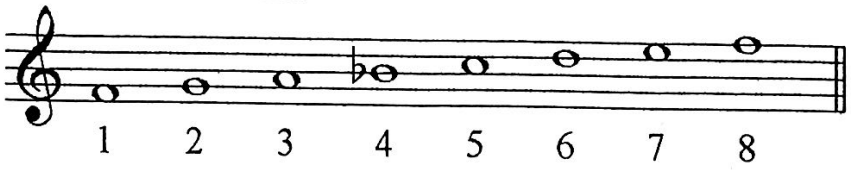


The D Major Triad

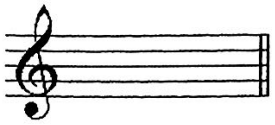


Practice What You Know — Building Triads

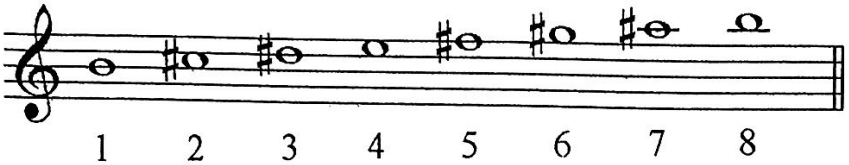
The F Major Scale



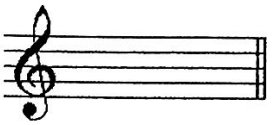
The F Major Triad



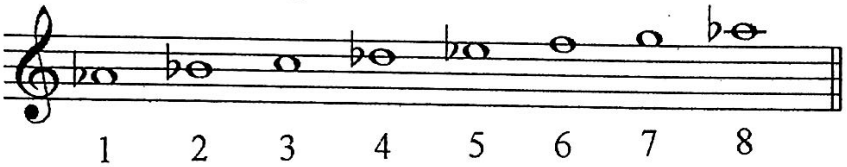
The B Major Scale



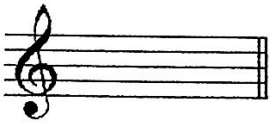
The B Major Triad



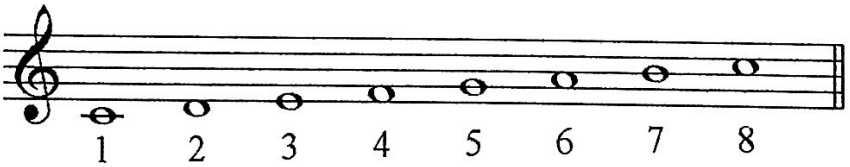
The A♭ Major Scale



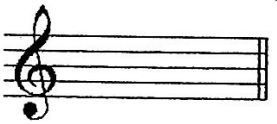
The A♭ Major Triad



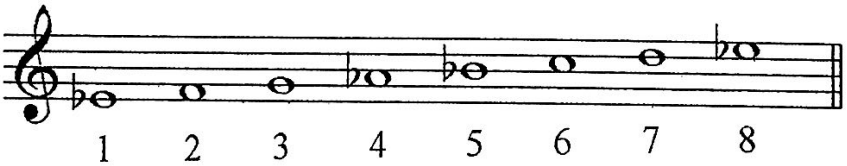
The C Major Scale



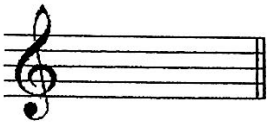
The C Major Triad



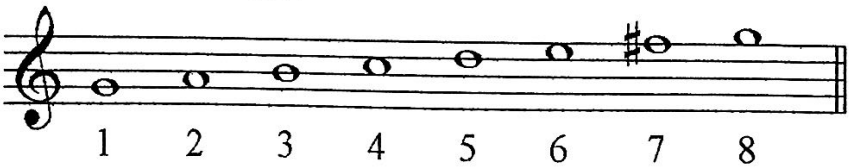
The E♭ Major Scale



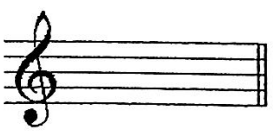
The E♭ Major Triad



The G Major Scale



The G Major Triad



Let's Learn Music Theory

order of sharps & order of flats

Directions: Read the entire lesson and study the examples careful before completing the exercises. Your goal is to MASTER the material!

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. When sharps are added to a key signature, they are always added in a specific order called the "**order of sharps**" - F C G D A E B. If there are two sharps, it will always be the first two (F & C). If there are five sharps, it will always be F, C, G, D, & A. Likewise, flats are always added in a specific order called the "**order of flats**" - B E A D G C F. Notice that the **order of flats** is the **order of sharps** written backwards.

Order of Sharps

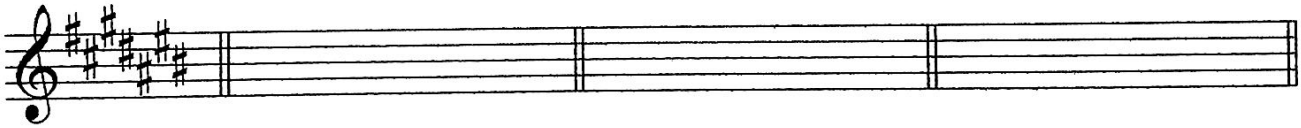
F C G D A E B

Order of Flats

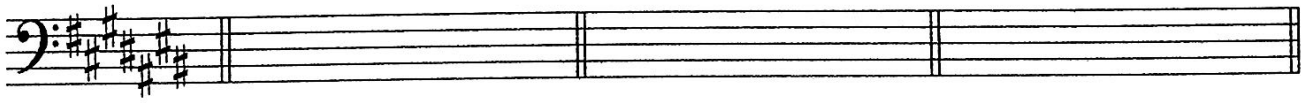
B E A D G C F

2. Practice the order of flats by drawing the C-sharp key signature six times below.

Treble Clef

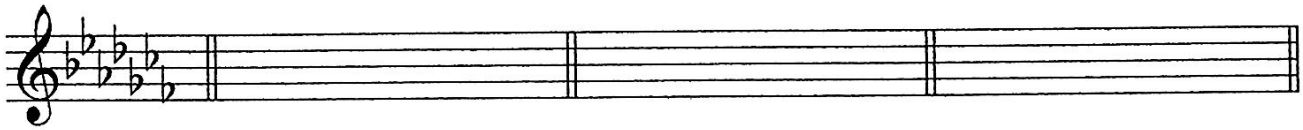


Bass Clef

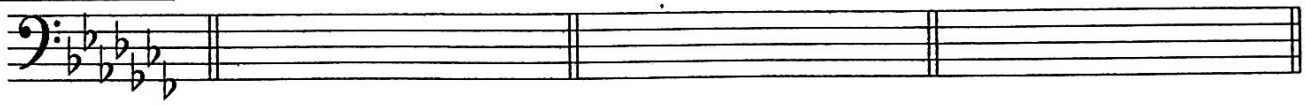


3. Practice the order of flats by drawing the C-flat key signature six times below.

Treble Clef



Bass Clef



Final Count Down to Music Theory

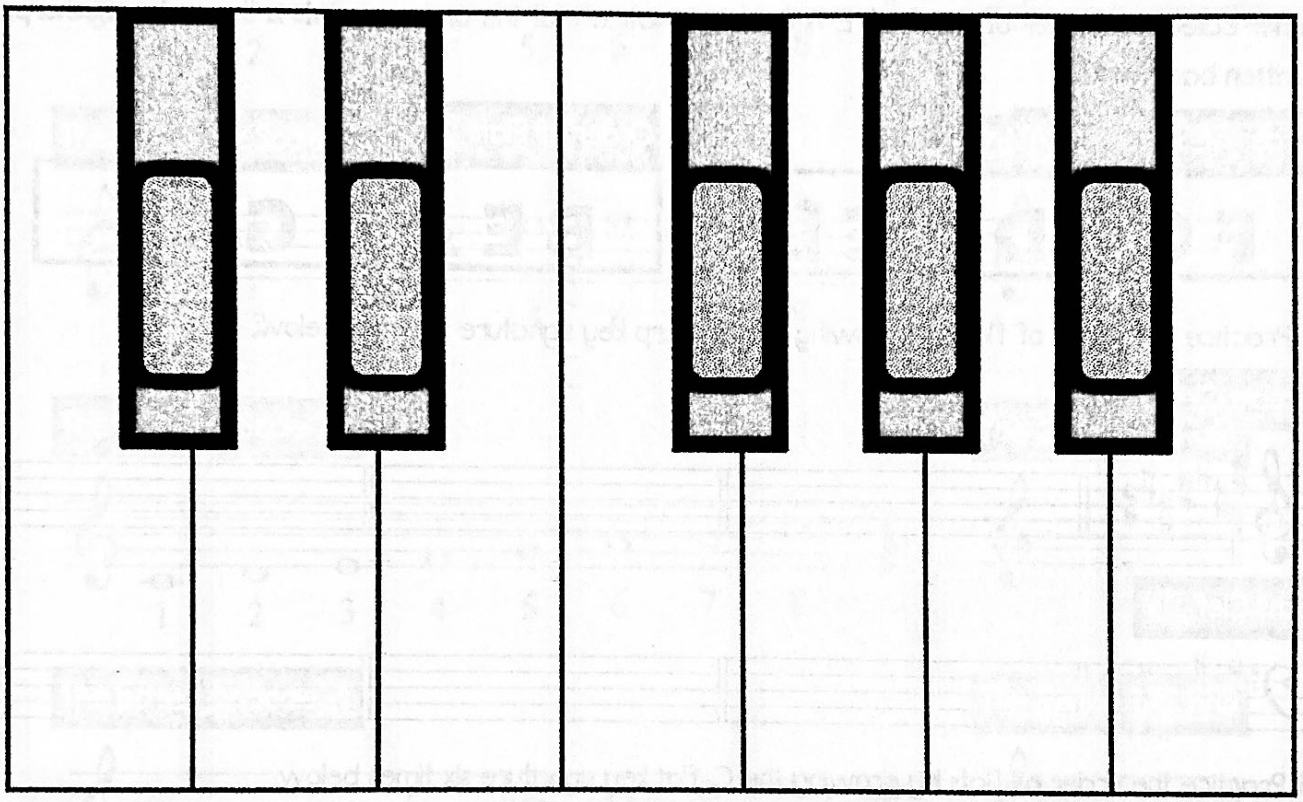
essential knowledge

Directions: This is your final review from your summer assignment. Finish the requested lists.

Name: _____

Date: _____

12 Label the **TWELVE** keys of the keyboard shown below.
Label the black keys with both the flat name and the sharp name.



11 List the **ELEVEN** missing notes between "C" and "C" in this ascending chromatic scale.
Use sharp names for notes as needed.

C _____ C

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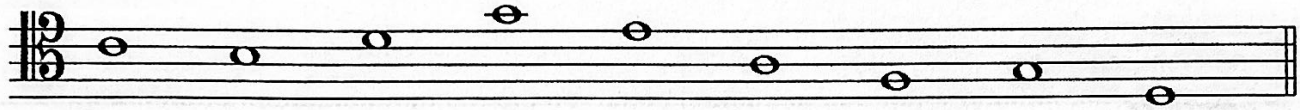
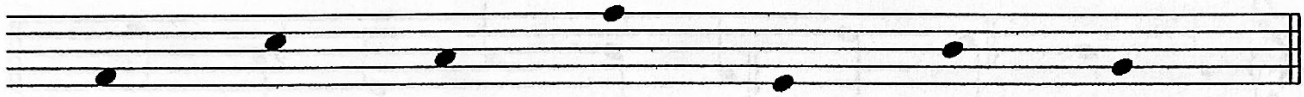
10 Label TEN notes in bass clef.

9 Label NINE notes in tenor clef.



8 Write the EIGHT notes of the C major scale

7 Add stems to SEVEN quarter notes.
Remember the rules for stems directions.



6 List SIX tempo terms that are slower than allegro.

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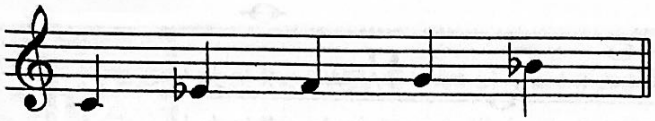
5 Identify the term for any scale that consists of only **FIVE** notes.



_____

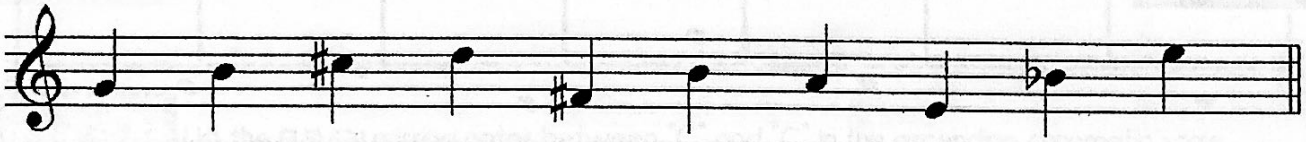
4 List the **FOUR** main vocal ranges in order from lowest to highest.

_____ _____ _____ _____

3 List the **THREE** words that mean "gradually decreasing tempo."

_____ _____ _____

2 Circle **TWO** notes that are non-diatonic to the key of G Major.



1 Identify the **ONE** and only instrument that reads alto clef.

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Lastly, list any questions remaining about your summer assignment here.

You will want to ask your teacher for clarification on any unclear concepts right away. AP Music Theory is a college level music course, which means it will be far more difficult than a standard elective class at your high school. To avoid slipping behind in this course, always questions right away, and refer to any web-based tutorials recommended by your teacher. Avoid rushing through assignments. Always read the accompanying texts, and study all examples carefully. The idea is the MASTER the material!