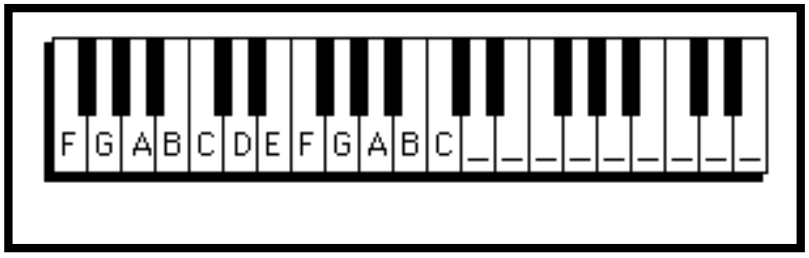
Chapter 1. The Keyboard and Treble Clef

In this chapter you will:
1. Play a tune on the keyboard
2. Identify notes on the keyboard
3. Write treble clefs on a staff
4. Review the material to here
5. Identify notes on the treble staff
6. Write notes on the treble staff
7. Identify whole, half and quarter notes, and draw stems on note-heads
8. Match notes on the keyboard with notes on the staff
9. Write a familiar song

Date:

1.1 Play a tune on the keyboard



•Harmony is the study of how pitches, or notes, are arranged to make music. In order to explain these arrangements it is convenient to show the keys on a piano keyboard. On the keyboard each key plays a certain pitch.
•Each white key corresponds to a letter A, B, C, D, E, F or G. The letters proceed alphabetically from A to G and then they go back to A.
•Black keys are arranged in alternating groups of twos and threes. All A's look alike in this pattern, all B's look alike and so on.

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1. *LABEL* the remaining keys on the keyboard above.

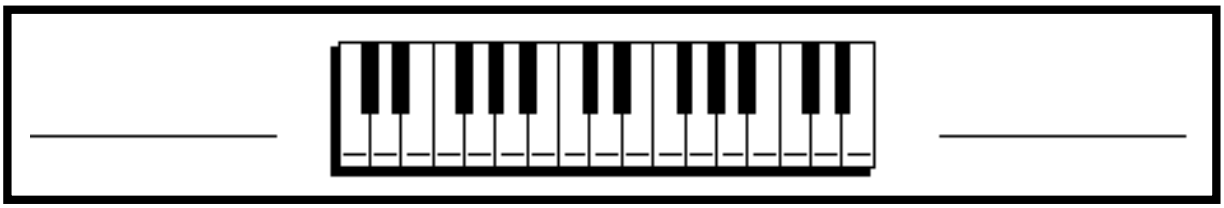
2. *PLAY* "Mary Had a Little Lamb" as shown below. The note letters are above the words. You can begin on any E on the keyboard.

E D C D E E E D D D E G G
Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb,

E D C D E E E E D D E D C
Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow.

Date:

1.2 Identify notes on the keyboard



•On the keyboard keys to the left sound low and keys to the right sound high.

•"Middle C" is often used as a reference note.

•The first G above middle C (to the right of middle C), and the first F below middle C (to the left of middle C) are also used as reference notes.

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1. *WRITE* the letter name for each white key on the keyboard above. This keyboard does not start in the same place as the keyboard on the previous page.

2. *WRITE* "high" and "low" in the correct spaces on either side of the keyboard.

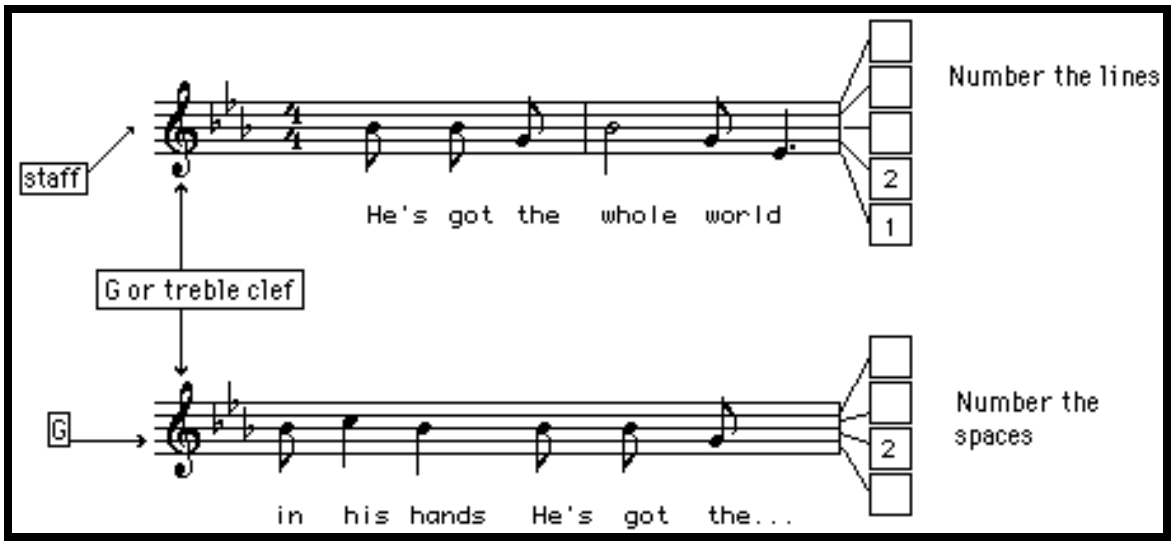
3. *CIRCLE* the C which is closest to the middle of the keyboard.

4. *CIRCLE* the first G above middle C, and the first F below middle C.

5. ~~*GO ONLINE* to www.gmajormusictheory.org~~
   ~~a. *CLICK* "Music Fundamentals"~~
   ~~b. *CLICK* in the "Virtual Flash Cards" column:~~
   ~~1.1 White keys on the keyboard~~
   ~~c. *PRACTICE* the letter names you have learned on the keyboard.~~

Date:

1.3 Write treble clefs on a staff



•Music is written on staffs. A staff is a set of five lines and four spaces.
•Lines and spaces on the staff are numbered from the bottom.
•Each line and space stands for a certain pitch or note, and is given a letter A through G. These letters refer to the letters for the keys on the keyboard.
•Each staff of music begins with a clef. A clef is a symbol which identifies a line and space with a letter.

•This symbol,  , is a G or treble clef. The G or treble clef identifies the second line as the note G above the piano's middle C.

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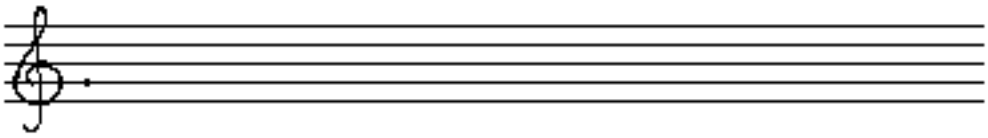
1. *NUMBER* the lines and spaces in the squares beside the staffs at the top of the page.

2. *WRITE* five treble clefs on the staff below. After each clef put a dot on the G line.



Date:

1.4 Review the material to here

COMPLETE the following sentences:

1. A staff is _____

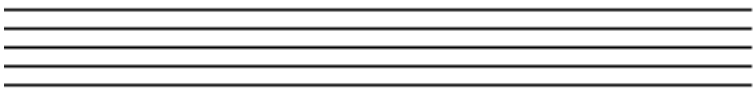
2. The note letters are _____

3. A clef is _____

4. The G or treble clef identifies

_____

5. Write two treble or G clefs. Put a dot on the second line.

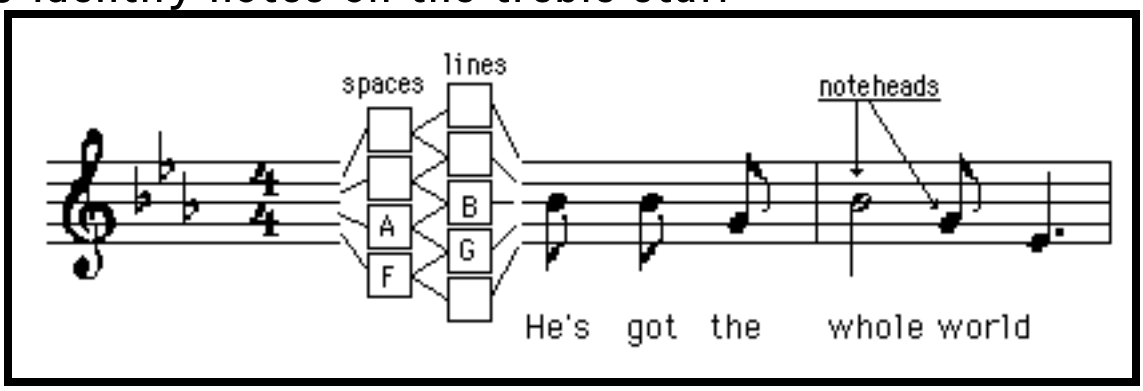


6. Notes to the right on the keyboard sound (higher/lower) _____.

7. Notes to the left on the keyboard sound (higher/lower) _____.

Date:

1.5 Identify notes on the treble staff



• Letter names proceed alphabetically on the staff from low to high alternating lines and spaces. When G is reached, the letters go back to A and then repeat.
• Note-heads are almost-circular ovals which indicate which pitch is to be played or sung. Note-heads may be filled in or open.
• A note-head is on a line if a line goes though it. It is in a space if a line does not go through it.

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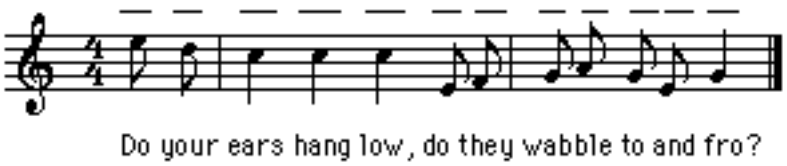
1. *WRITE* the letter name for each line and space in the boxes at the top of the page.

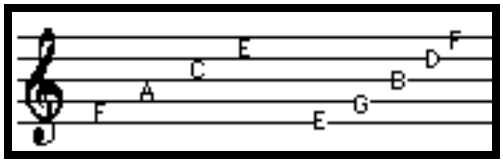
2. *WRITE* the letter name for each note-head in the music below.



3. *PLAY* this phrase.

Date:

1.6 Write notes on the treble staff



There is a faster way to identify the letters on a staff with treble clef:
- Notes in the spaces, starting from the bottom, spell the word FACE.
- Notes on the lines, starting from the bottom, are E G B D and F, as in Every Good Boy Does Fine.

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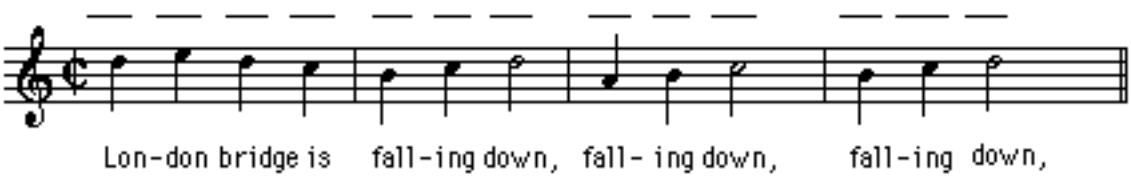
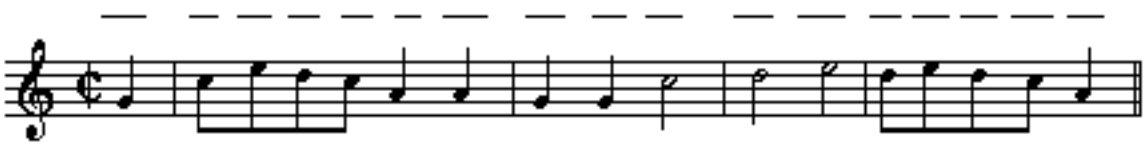
1. *IDENTIFY* the following notes, and learn to *PLAY* one of these phrases:



The Arkansas Traveler --Traditional fiddle tune

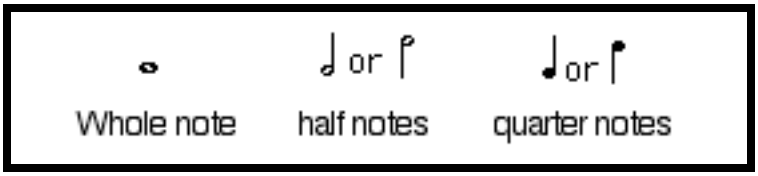


2. *DRAW* a treble clef at the beginning of the staff below.
3. *DRAW* open note-heads (without stems) for the letters above the staff.

4. ~~*GO ONLINE* to www.gmajormusictheory.org~~
   ~~a. *CLICK* "Music Fundamentals"~~
   ~~b. *CLICK* in the "Virtual Flash Cards" column:~~
      ~~1.2 Treble Clef~~
   ~~c. *PRACTICE* the letter names you have learned on the staff.~~

Date:

1.7 Identify whole, half and quarter notes, and draw stems on note-heads

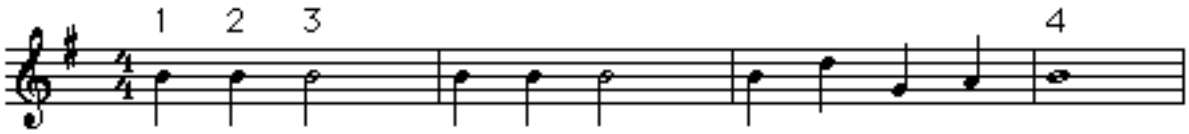


•A beat is a steady pulse which underlies the music. When you tap your foot to the music, you usually tap the beat.
• Stems are vertical lines which are frequently attached to the note-heads.
•Open note-heads without stems, 𝅝, are usually four beats long. They are called whole notes.

•Open note-heads with stems, 𝅗𝅥 or 𝅗𝅥, are usually two beats long. They are half as long as whole notes, so they are called half notes.

•Filled in note-heads with stems, ♩ or ♩, are usually one beat long. They are one quarter as long as whole notes, and so they are called quarter notes.

IDENTIFY the numbered notes as whole, half or quarter notes:

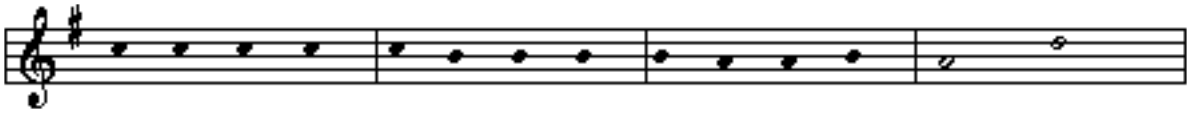


1._____ 3. _____

2._____ 4. _____

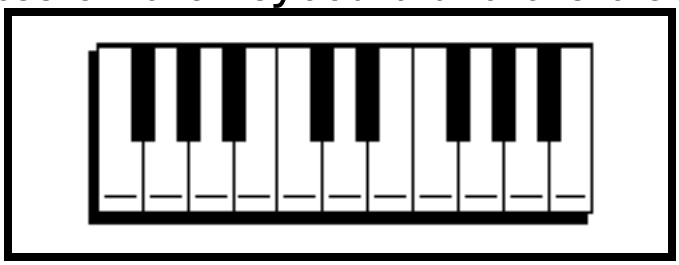
•If a note-head is on the middle line or higher, the stem is on the left of the note-head. This stem goes down.
•If a note-head is on the second space or lower, the stem is on the right of the note-head. This stem goes up. See the above staff.

DRAW stems for these quarter notes and half notes.



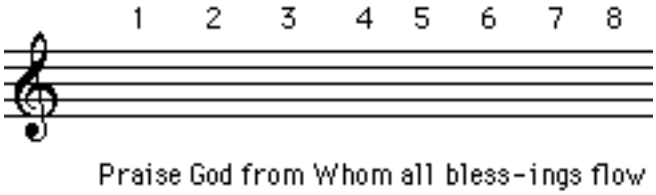
Date:

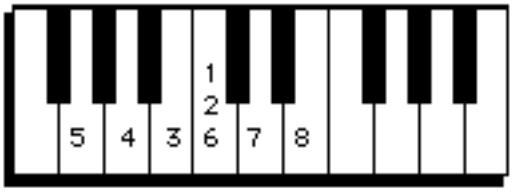
1.8 Match notes on the keyboard and the treble staff



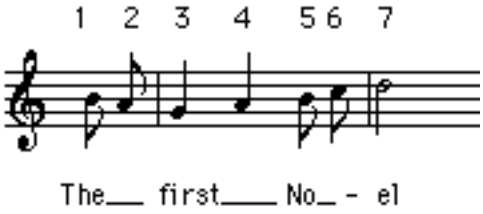
1. *WRITE* letter names on each white key on the keyboard above.

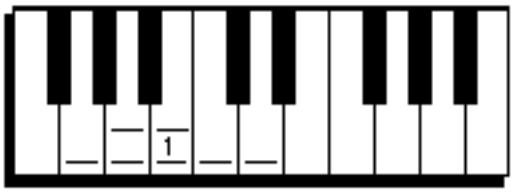
2. *WRITE* quarter notes under each number according to where the number appears on the keyboard.





3. *WRITE* on the keyboard the number for each note on the staff.

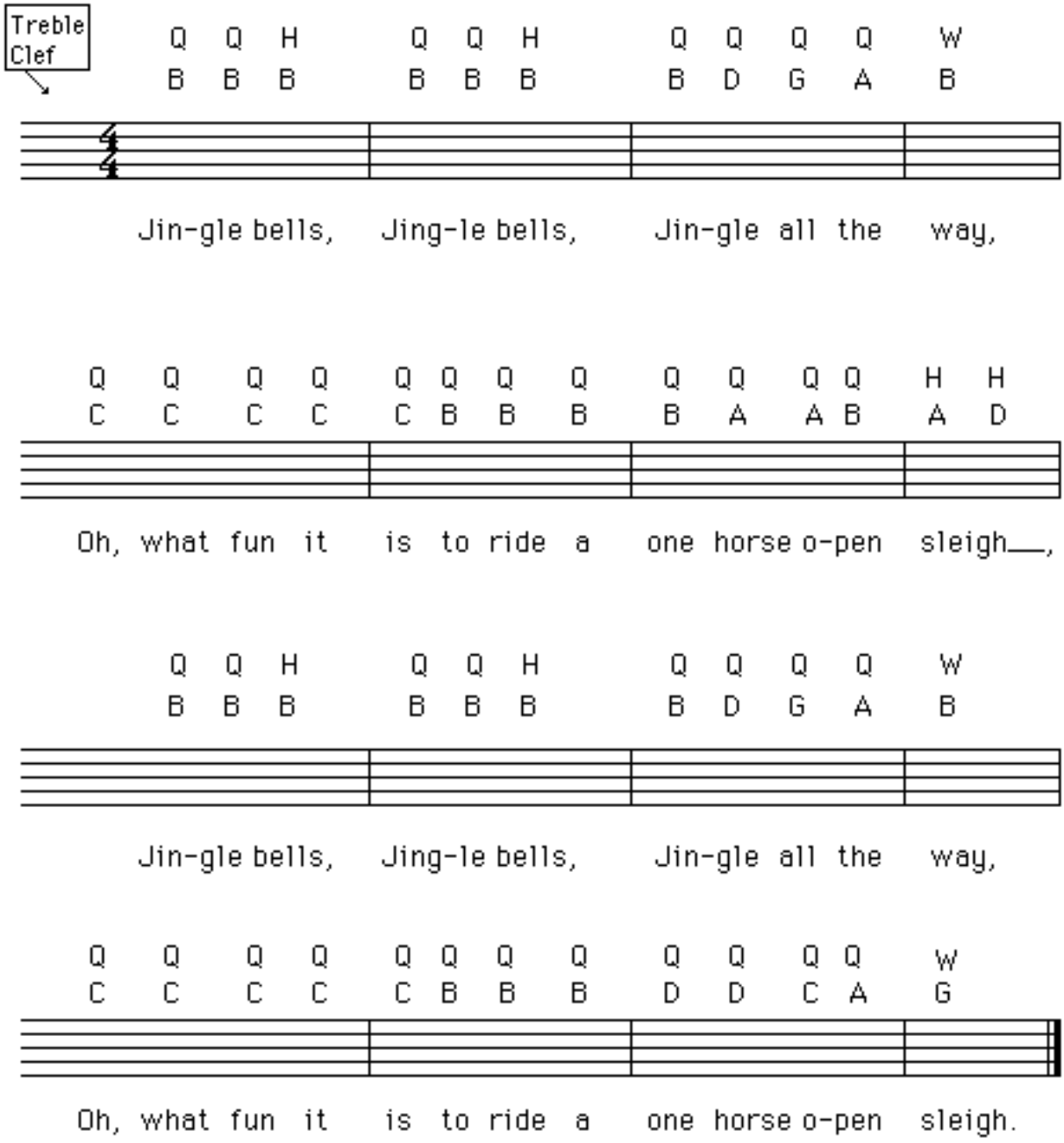




Date:

1.9 Write a Familiar Song

1. *WRITE* the treble clefs and the notes to "Jingle Bells."
For the notes, refer to the note letters and the durations above the staffs.
Durations are on top. Use this code to write them correctly:
Q= quarter note, H=half note and W= whole note.
2. *PLAY* "Jingle Bells!"

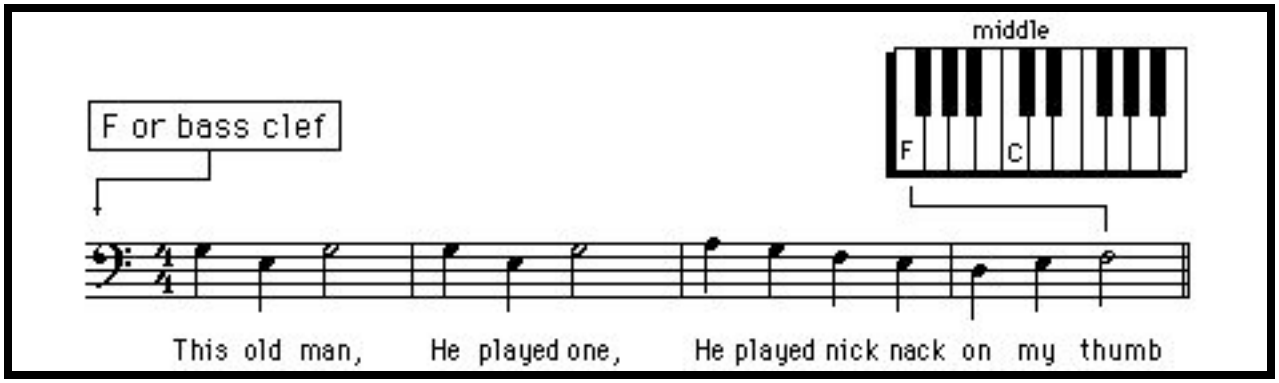


Chapter 2. Bass Clef

In this chapter you will:
1.Write bass clefs
2. Write some low notes
3. Match low notes on the keyboard with notes on the staff
4. Write eighth notes
5. Identify notes on ledger lines
6. Identify sharps and flats on the keyboard
7.Write sharps and flats on the staff
8. Write enharmonic equivalents

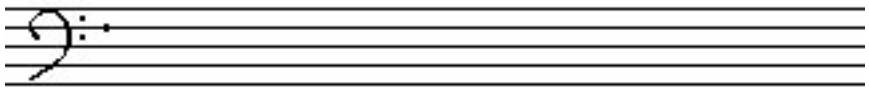
date:

2.1 Write bass clefs

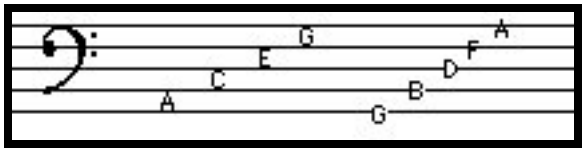


- The symbol at the beginning of the above staff, 𝄢, is an F or bass clef.
- The F or bass clef says that the fourth line of the staff is the F below the piano's middle C. This clef is used to write low notes.

DRAW five bass clefs. After each clef, which itself includes two dots, put another dot on the F line.



2.2 Write some low notes



•The notes on the spaces of a staff with bass clef starting from the bottom space are:
A, C, E and G as in All Cows Eat Grass.
•The notes on the lines of a staff with bass clef starting from the bottom line are:
G, B, D, F and A as in Good Boys Do Fine Always.

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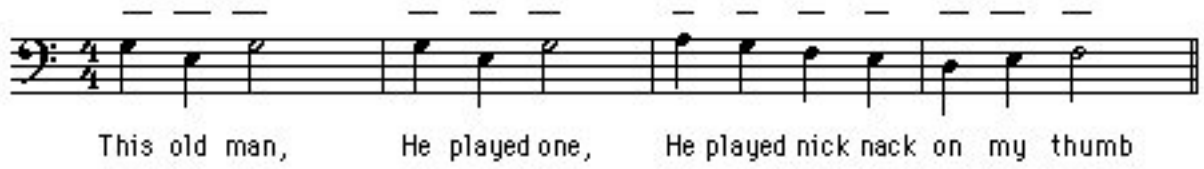
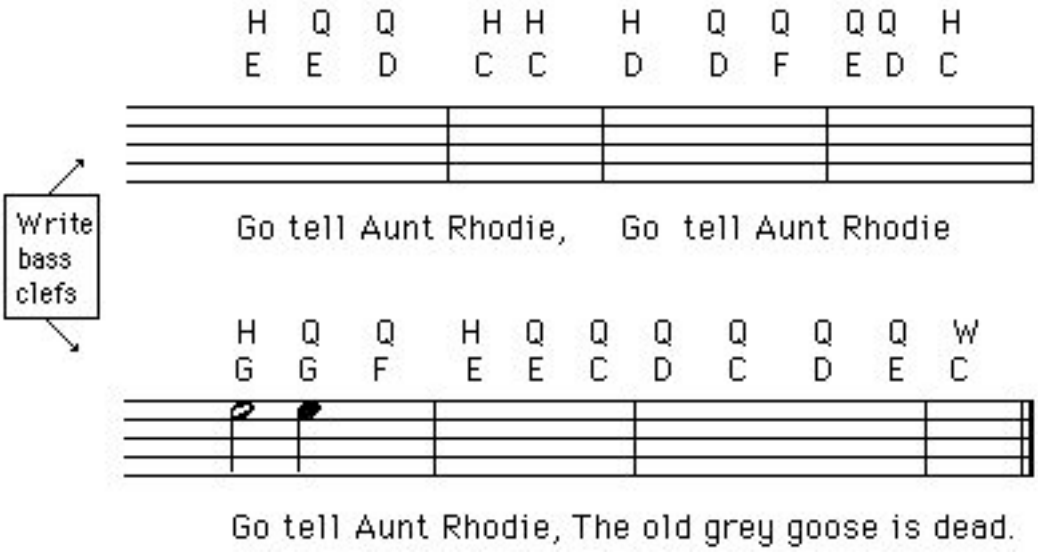
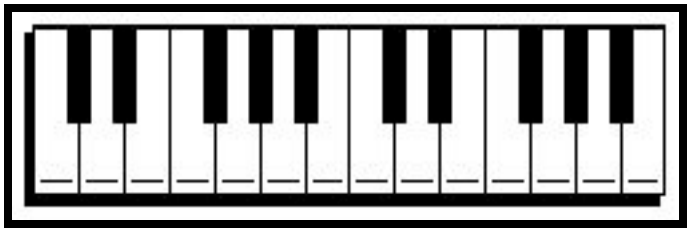
1. *IDENTIFY* the notes in the song "This Old Man." PLAY it.



2. *WRITE* the notes and bass clefs for the song, "Go Tell Aunt Rhodie"
Q = quarter note H = half note W = whole note

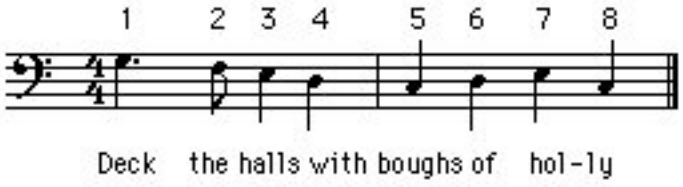


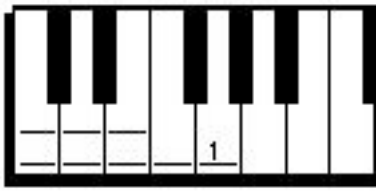
2.3 Match low notes on the keyboard with notes on the staff



A. Bass clef and the keyboard

1. *WRITE* letters on the white keys of the above keyboard.
2. *WRITE*, on the keyboard below, the number of each note which appears on the staff to the left. Learn to play this phrase.





B. Review

COMPLETE the following sentecnes

1. The phrase for remembering the lines for bass clef is

_____

2. The spaces in treble clef spell

_____

3. The phrase for remembering the lines for treble clef is

_____

4. The phrase for remembering the spaces for bass clef is

_____

~~C. Practice~~

~~*GO ONLINE* to http://www.classic.musictheory.net/.~~

~~1. *SELECT* "Note Trainer" from the "Trainers" menu.~~

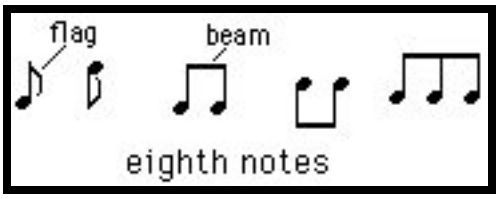
~~2. *CLICK* "Settings."~~

~~3. *HIGHLIGHT* bass clef only; *DRAG* notes to the top and bottom lines.~~

~~4. *CLICK* "Settings" again.~~

~~5. *REVIEW* treble clef notes as needed.~~

2.4 Write eighth notes



- All the above notes are called eighth notes.
- When there is only a single eighth note, its stem has a flag.
- When two or more eighth notes appear together they are usually connected with a beam.
- Eighth notes are twice as fast as quarter notes. There are usually two eighth notes in one beat. There are eight eighth notes in a whole note.

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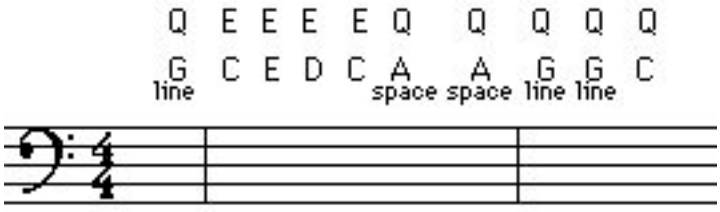
1. *DRAW* these notes:

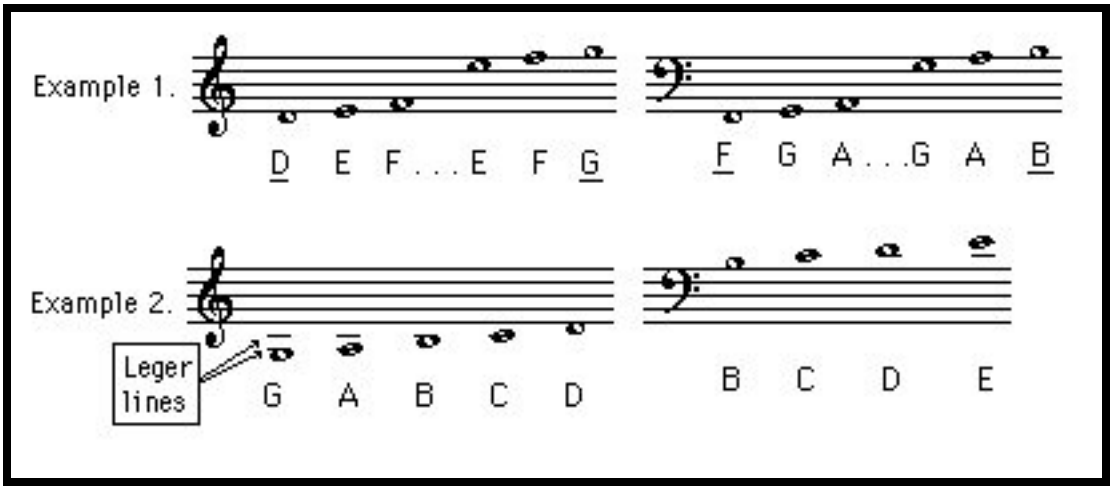
Eighth note	2 eighth notes connected with a beam	Quarter note	Half note	Whole note

2. *WRITE* the notes to "Arkansas Traveler" on the staff below. Connect the eighth notes with a beam.

In the top line E = eighth note and Q = quarter note.

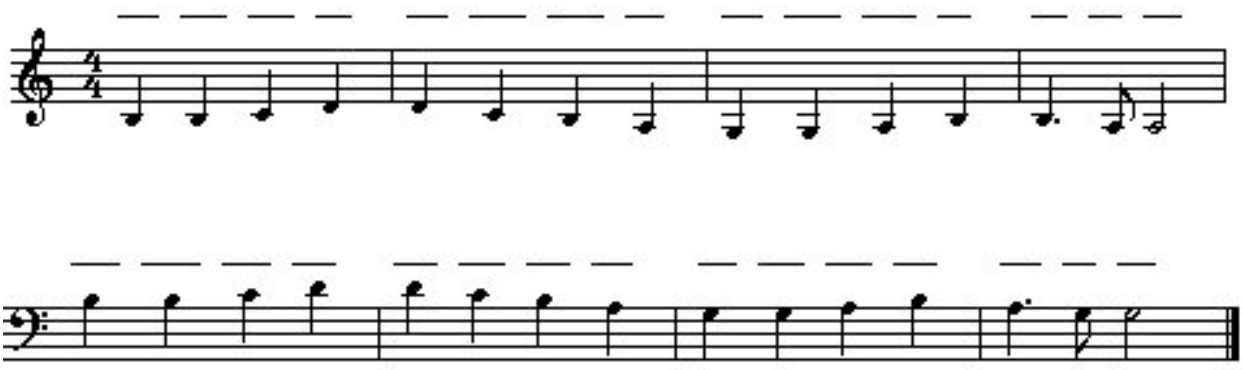


2.5 Identify notes above and below the staff; ledger lines

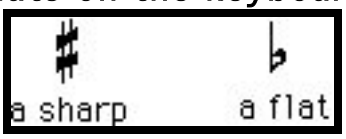


•Notes can be written above and below the staff. Their letter names continue in alphabetical order. See example 1 above.
•Staffs can be extended with ledger lines. Ledger lines are short lines above, below or through notes to show pitches beyond the staff. See example 2.

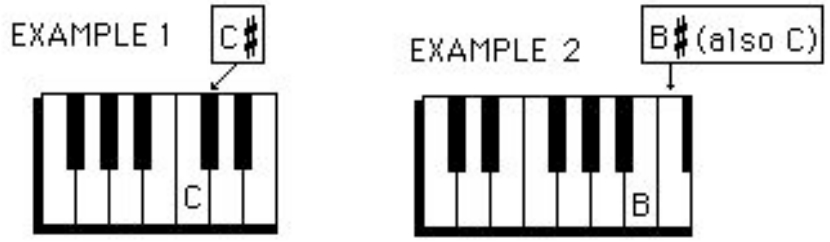
IDENTIFY the notes to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

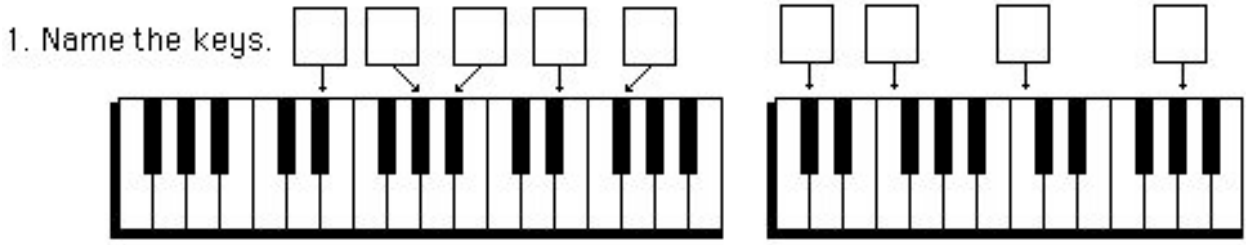


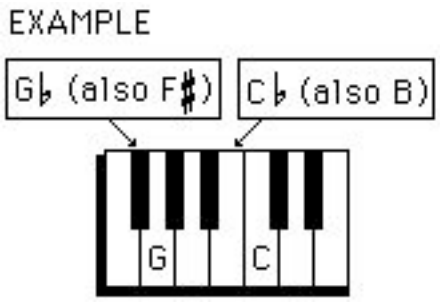
2.6 Identify sharps and flats on the keyboard

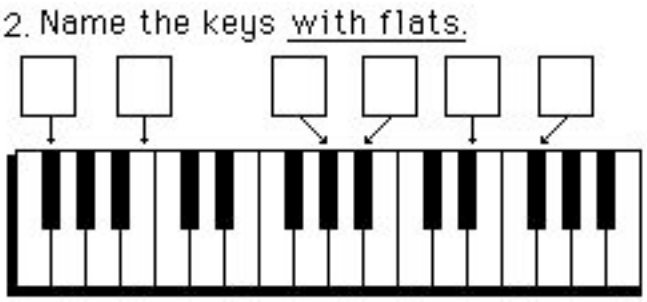


•A sharp, ♯, after a letter name means play the key to the right, or higher, on the keyboard without skipping over any keys, whether black or white. See example 1 below. C♯ is to the right of C.
•If the key to the right is white, give the key a new second name with a sharp. See example 2 below.
•A flat, , after a letter means play the key to the left, or lower, on the keyboard without skipping over any keys, whether black or white.









2.7 Write sharps and flats on the staff

Sharps and flats on the staff.

- When writing sharps and flats with letter names, write the sharp or flat after the letter--C♯.
- When writing sharps and flats with notes on a staff, write the sharp or flat before the note--♯F.
- On the staff, the space in the middle of the sharp or flat should cover the same line or space as the note next to it.

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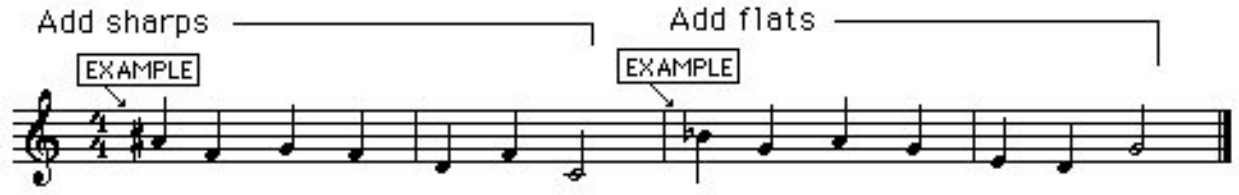
1. *WRITE* sharps or flats in front of these notes.



2. *REVIEW*

a. Notes sound _____ on the right side of the keyboard.
(higher or lower)

b. Notes sound _____ on the left side of the keyboard.
(higher or lower)

c. A sharp means play the key to the _____ on the keyboard.
(right or left)

d. A flat means play the key to the _____ on the keyboard.
(right or left)

e. The key for D♭ is to the _____ of D.
(right or left)

f. The key for C♯ is to the _____ of C.
(right or left)

g. D♭ sounds _____ than D.
(higher or lower)

h. C♯ sounds _____ than C.
(higher or lower)

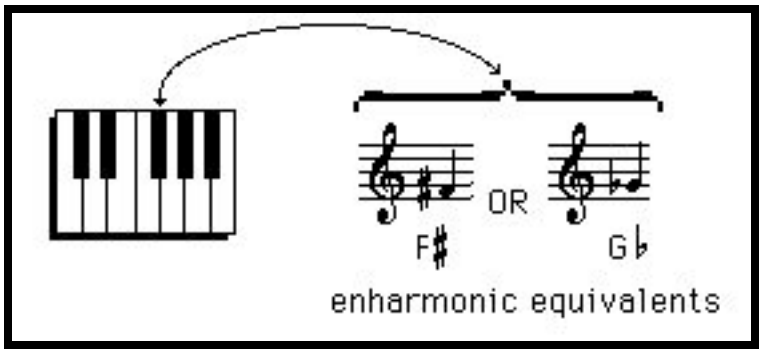
3. ~~*GO ONLINE* to~~ http://www.classic.musictheory.net/.

~~a. *SELECT* "Keyboard Trainer" from the "Trainers" menu.~~

~~b. *CLICK* the "Black Keys" circle so it says "On."~~

~~c. *CHOOSE* the correct letters for the highlighted keys.~~

2.8 Write enharmonic equivalents



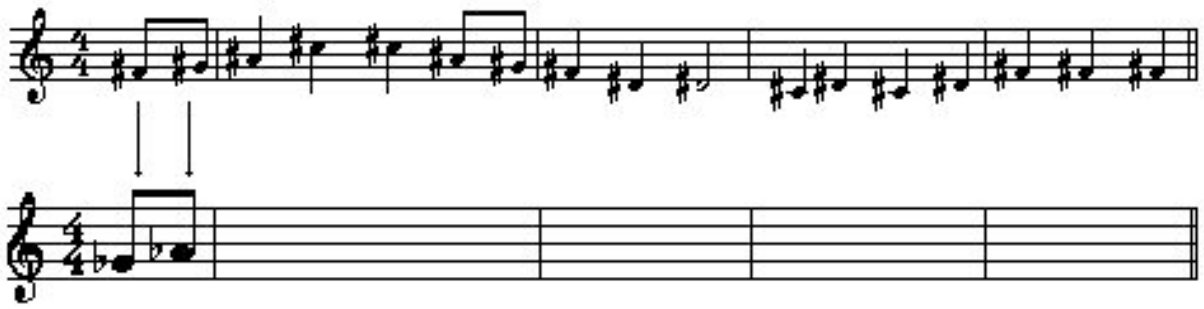
•Each key on the keyboard can be written in at least two different ways on the staff, and can be called by at least two different letter names. Two letter names or two notes on the staff which refer to the same pitch are called enharmonic equivalents.

---

1. *WRITE* enharmonic equivalents for each of these notes:

A♭___	B♯___	C♯____
D♯___	D♭___	F♭____
B♭___	C♭___	A♯____

2. *REWRITE* the following music using flats instead of sharps.



3. *PLAY* this tune.

Chapter 3 Basic Rhythms

In this chapter you will:
1. Review some rhythmic notation
2.Draw bar lines to make measures
3. Write time signatures
4. Clap rhythms with sixteenth notes
5. Count the beats in phrases with dotted notes
6. Count the beats in phrases with rests

date:

3.1 Review some rhythmic notation

1. A beat is _____

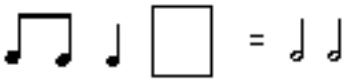
(see worksheet 1.7)

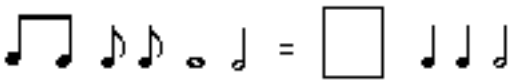
2. *DRAW* lines to match items in column 1 with items in column 2,
AND DRAW lines to match items in column 2 with items in column 3.

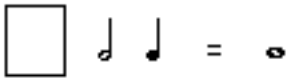
1. Note symbol	2. Note Name	3. Usual number of beats
	2 eighth notes	1
	a quarter note	2
	a whole note	4
	an eighth note	1
	a half note	one half

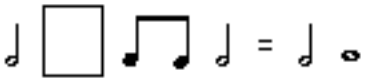
3. *DRAW* the note in the box which makes one side of the "equation" equal the other side.

a. 

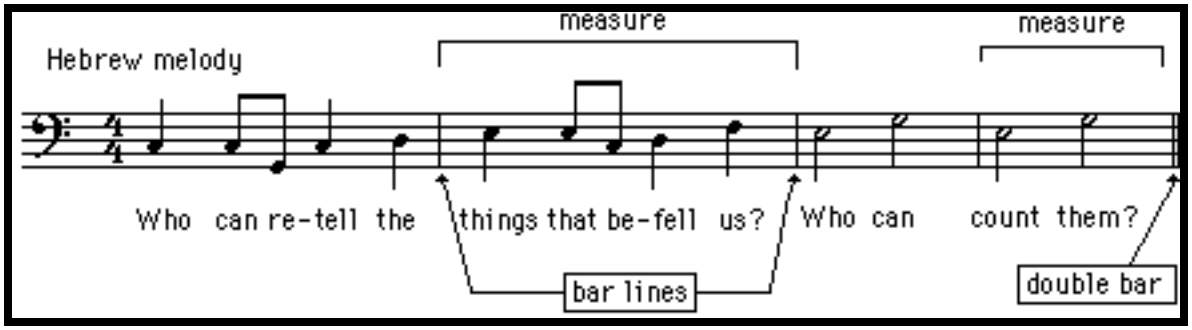
b. 

c. 

d. 

e. 

Date:

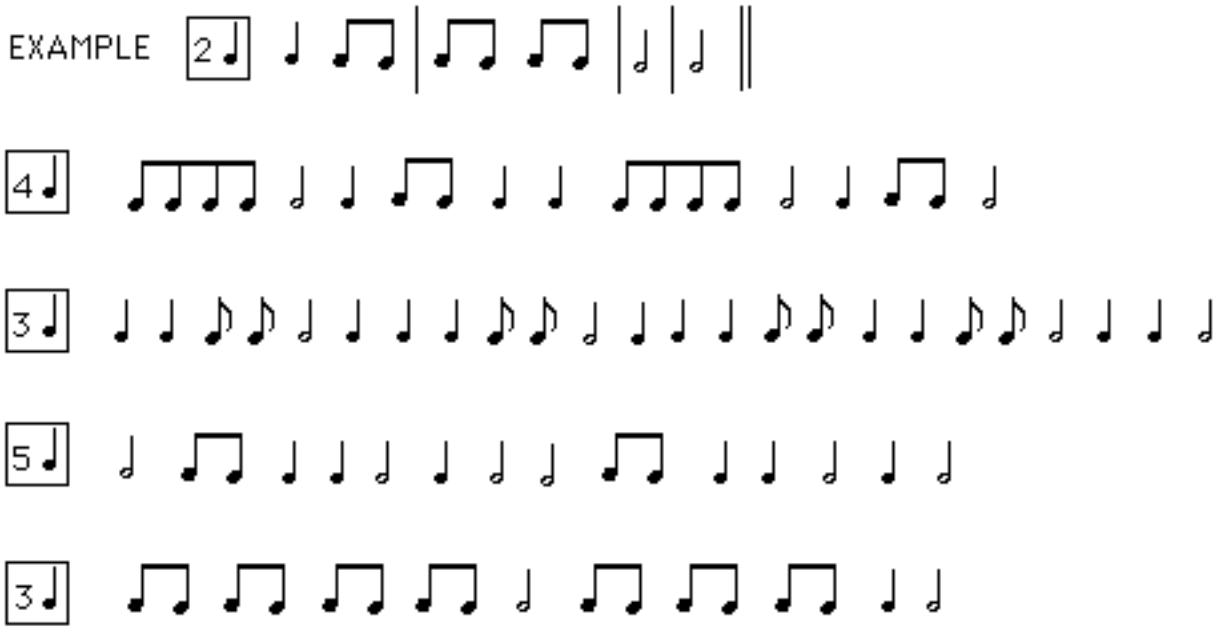


3.2 Draw bar lines to make measures

- Vertical lines on the staff are called bar lines.
- The spaces between the bar lines are called measures.
- The first measure in a staff does not usually have a left bar line.
- Each measure has the same number of beats.
- Measures show the regular pattern of strong and weak beats in music. The first beat of every measure is strong.
- The double bar at the end of the above staff signals the end of the music

---

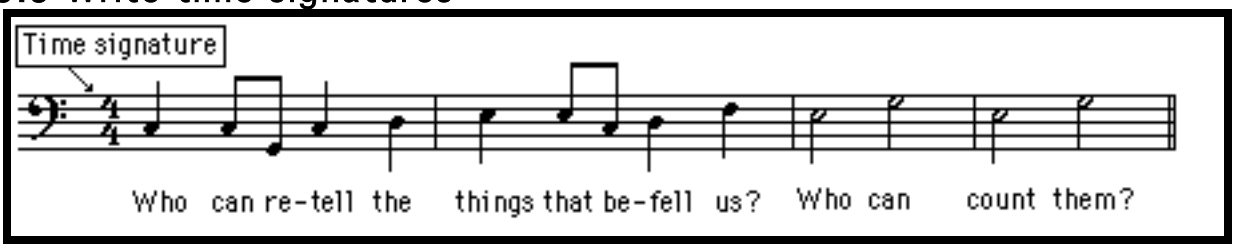
1. *HOW MANY* measures are there in the phrase above?_____
2. *DRAW* bar lines in the following phrases. Each measure should have the number of quarter note beats which are shown in the box on the left. End the phrases with a double bar.



Clap these rhythms.

Date:

3.3 Write time signatures



•The numbers at the beginning of a piece, the two fours after the clef in the above phrase, are called a time signature. The time signature tells how long each measure is.
•The top number tells how many counts there are in each measure.
The bottom number tells what kind of note to count. If there is a 4 on the bottom, count the time in terms of quarter notes.

---

1. *HOW MANY* quarter notes long is a measure of $\frac{3}{4}$ (that is, a measure preceded by a time signature of $\frac{3}{4}$)?

2. *HOW MANY* quarter notes long is a measure of $\frac{6}{4}$?

3. WRITE the time signatures in the boxes. Count the length of each measure in terms of quarter notes.

EXAMPLE $\boxed{\frac{6}{4}}$ 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 ||

1. ☐

2. ☐

3. ☐

4. DRAW bar lines according to the time signatures. End with a double bar.

EXAMPLE $\frac{4}{4}$

1. $\frac{3}{4}$

2. $\frac{2}{4}$

3. $\frac{4}{4}$

Date:

3.4 Clap rhythms with sixteenth notes

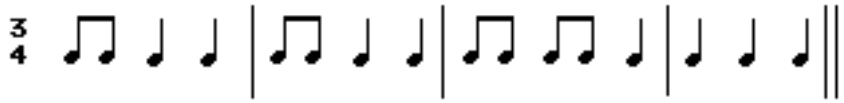
• All the notes above are called sixteenth notes. Sixteenth notes either have two flags or are connected by two beams.

•There are four sixteenth notes in a quarter note, the usual beat.

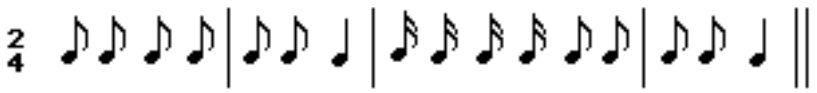
•There are 16 sixteenth notes in a whole note.

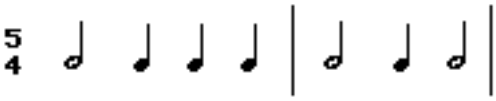
CLAP these rhythms:

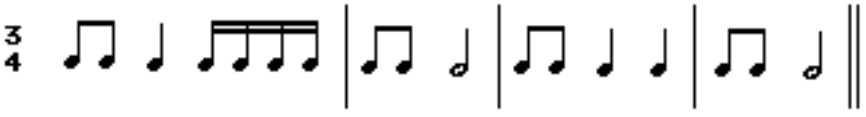
1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

Date:

3.5 Count the beats in phrases with dotted notes

			
beats in note + beats in dot	1 + ½	2 + 1	4 + 2
total number of beats	1 ½	3	6

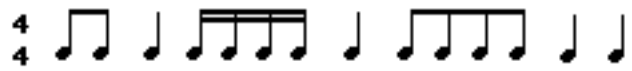
assume quarter note beats

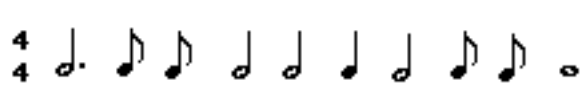
- All the above notes are <u>dotted notes</u>.
- A <u>dot</u> after a note lengthens the note by half the value of the note itself. So the value of the dot depends on the value of the note which precedes it.
- As shown above: dotted quarter notes are usually 1 -1/2 beats long,
  dotted half notes are usually 3 beats long, and
  dotted whole notes are usually 6 beats long.

---

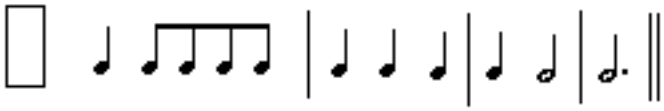
1. *DRAW* bar lines:

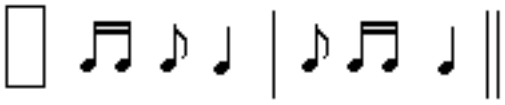
a. 

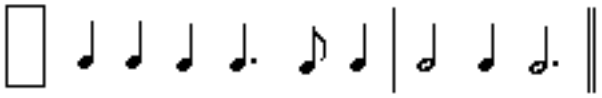
b. 

c. 

2. *WRITE* the time signatures

a. 

b. 

c. 

Date:

3.6 Count the beats in phrases with rests

𝅝	whole note	4 beats
𝄻	whole rest	
𝅗𝅥	half note	2 beats
𝄼	half rest	
♩	quarter note	1 beat
𝄽	quarter rest	
♪	eighth note	1/2 beat (2 per beat)
𝄾	eighth rest	
𝅘𝅥𝅯	sixteenth note	1/4 beat (4 per beat)
𝄿	sixteenth rest	

- Rests tell how long silences are in music.
- Each note has a rest which stands for the same length of time as the note. See the chart above.

---

1. *DRAW* rests in the boxes so that both sides of the "equations" add to the same length of time.

1. ♩ 𝄽 = ♩ ☐ ♪

2. 𝅗𝅥. ☐ ☐ = ♩ 𝄼 ♩ ♫

3. ♪ ♩ 𝄾 = ☐

4. 𝄽 = ♬ ☐

5. ☐ = ♩ 𝅘𝅥𝅯𝅘𝅥𝅯𝅘𝅥𝅯𝅘𝅥𝅯 𝄿 𝄿 ♪ ♩

~~2. *GO ONLINE* to www.gmajormusictheory.org~~

~~a. *CLICK* "Music Fundamentals"~~

~~b. *CLICK* in the "Virtual Flash Cards" column:~~

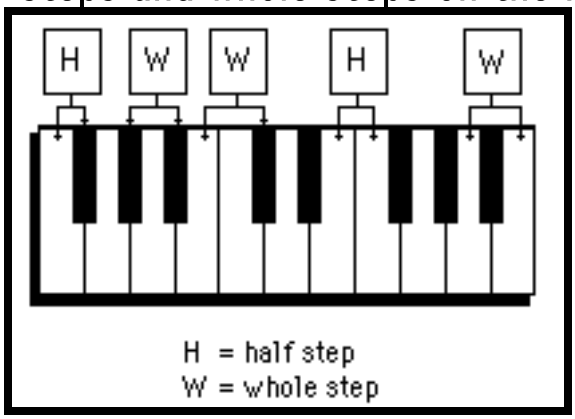
~~3.1 Note & Rest Durations~~

~~c. *PRACTICE* the durations you have learned.~~

Chapter 4. Major Scales and the Circle of Fifths

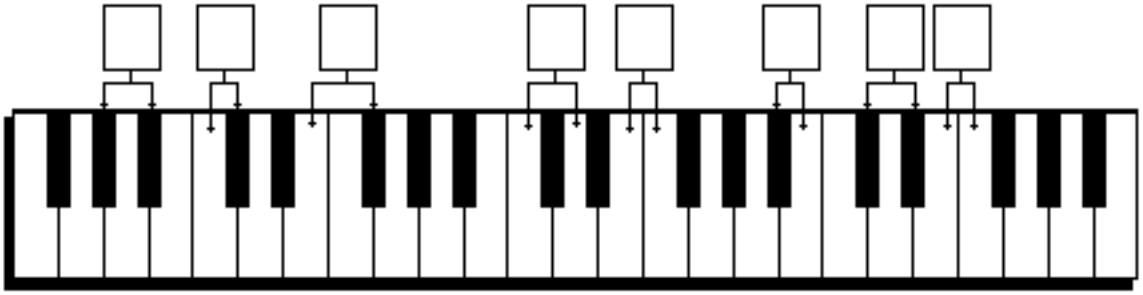
In this chapter you will:
1.Identify half steps and whole steps on the keyboard
2. Identify half steps and whole steps on the staff
3. Write half steps and whole steps on the staff
4. Mark the notes of major scales on the keyboard
5. Mark the notes of major scales on a keyboard in the circle of fifths
6. Write phrases to memorize keynotes in the circle of fifths
7. Fill in the keys, in order, on the circle of fifths.
8. Write major scales on the staff
9. Write the sharp scales on a staff in the circle of fifths
10. Write the flat scales on a staff in the circle of fifths

4.1 Identify half steps and whole steps on the keyboard

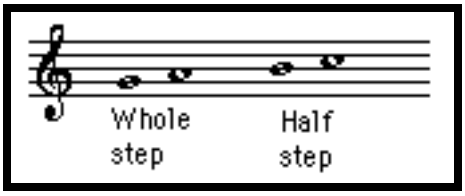


• A half step is the closest possible distance between two notes. There can be no notes in between two notes which are separated by a half step.
• A whole step is a distance between two notes such that there is one and only one other note between those two notes.

IDENTIFY the distances on the keyboard below as "H" for half step or "W" for whole step.



4.2 Identify half steps and whole steps on the staff

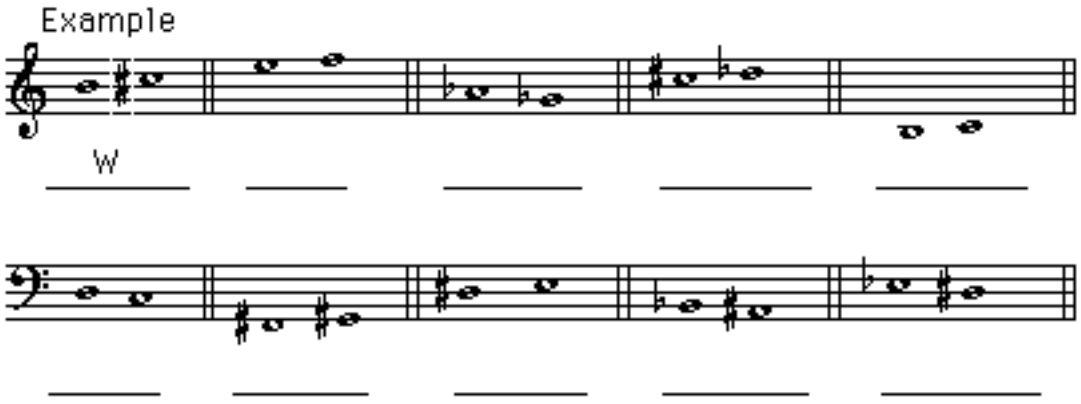


• The staff by itself does not show half step and whole step relationships. See the illustration above. To find half steps and whole steps on the staff, refer to the keyboard.

---

1. *FILL IN* the letter names for the white keys on this keyboard.

2. *IDENTIFY* the pairs of notes as separated by either a half step (H), or a whole step (W), or as being enharmonic equivalents (E).

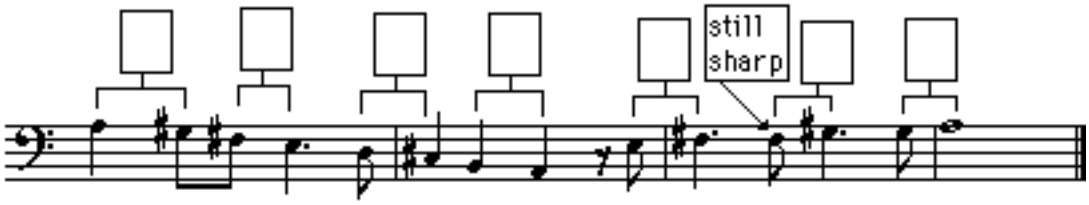


4.3 Write half steps and whole steps on the staff

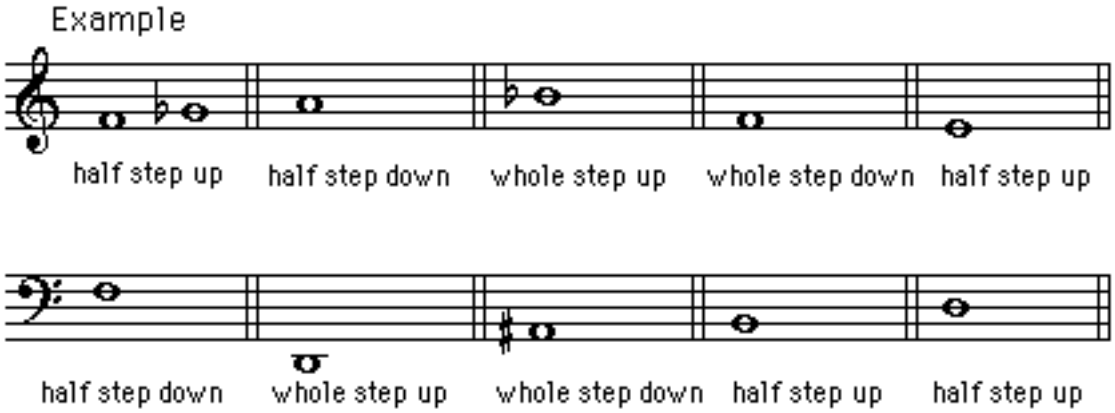
• A sharp or flat applies to the note which follows it AND to all the following notes of the same letter name in the measure.

---

1. . *IDENTIFY* the bracketed pairs of notes as separated by either a half step (H), or a whole step (W). Refer to the keyboard.



2. *WRITE* notes which are a half step up or down, or a whole step up or down from the given note.



~~2. *GO ONLINE* to www.gmajormusictheory.org~~

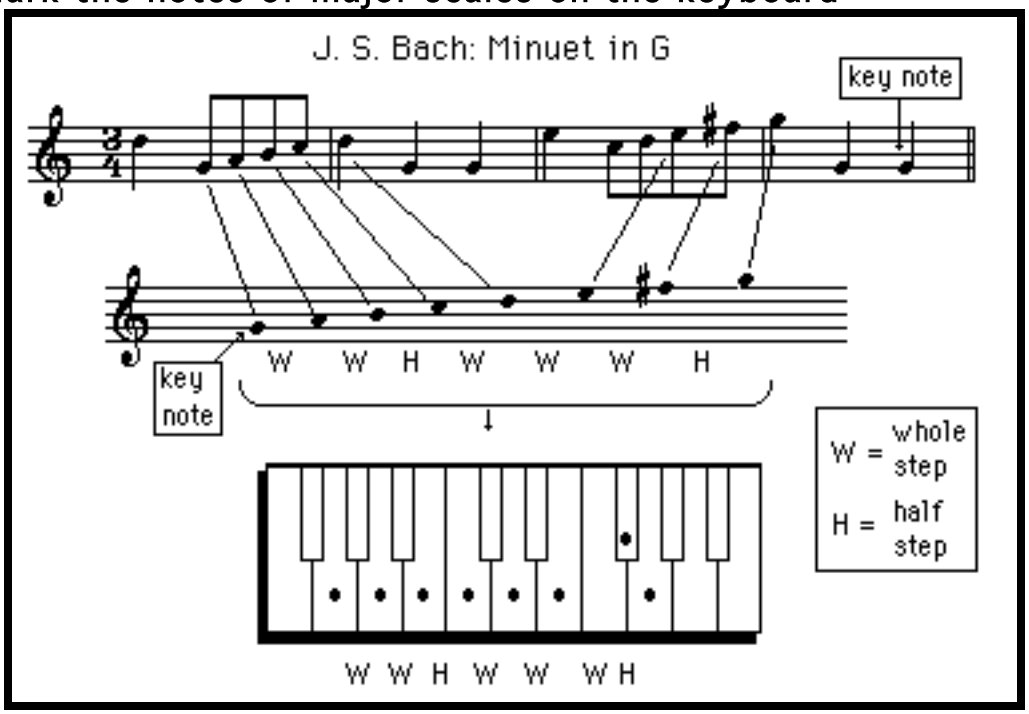
~~a. *CLICK* "Music Fundamentals"~~

~~b. *CLICK* in the "Virtual Flash Cards" column:~~

~~4.1 Half, whole or Enharmonic?~~

~~c. *PRACTICE* the durations you have learned.~~

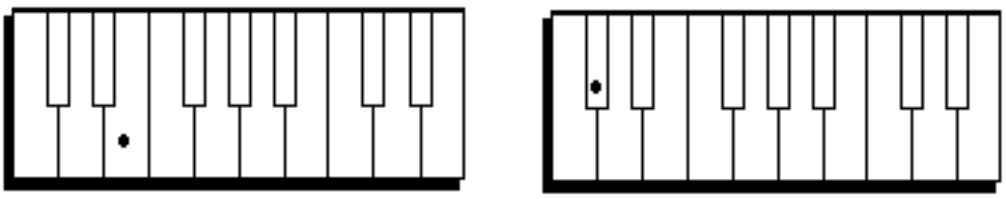
4.4 Mark the notes of major scales on the keyboard



• A key note is the most important note of a piece of music. Pieces almost always end on the key note.
• If eight notes of a piece are arranged in order without skipping lines or spaces and if the first note is the key note, then the notes form a scale.
• A major scale is eight note in ascending order which are separated from each other according to this pattern:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
whole step	whole step	half step	whole step	whole step	whole step	half step	

DRAW dots on the following keyboards for each note of a major scale. The key note is given.



4.5 page 1 Mark scale degrees on a keyboard in the circle of fifths

TURN THE BOOK (OR PAGE 7) UPSIDE-DOWN!

•Each note of a scale is called a scale degree. Scale degree 1 is the key note.
•If scales are written clockwise on a circular keyboard or staff, and if the keynote of each scale begins on scale degree 5 of the previous scale, then the keynotes follow an order called the circle of fifths.

DRAW dots for the notes of every scale on the circular keyboard on the next page. The C major scale has already been marked where it says "START HERE." Notice that if the key note is C, then the major scale pattern

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
W W H W W W H

results in all white keys.

1. The key note of the next scale to the left (be sure you have turned the page upside-down) is scale degree 5 of the C major scale. *WRITE* the letter name for this note in the box in the next section to the left. Its scale has also already been filled in.
2. *COUNT* to the fifth note in the new scale, *WRITE* its letter name in the next box and *MARK* the notes of its scale with dots on the keyboard. *CHECK* to see that the first note is the same as the last.
3. *PROCEED* in this way until you have gone all the way around the circle and arrived at the C scale again. *ROTATE* the book as you work. When you reach sections of the circle with two boxes for key notes, *FILL IN* enharmonically equivalent key notes.

Incredibly all 12 different notes on the keyboard will have been used once and only once as key notes, and the original key note, C, will be the fifth note of the previous scale, In this way you will have completed a true circle—the circle of fifths.

4.5 page 2

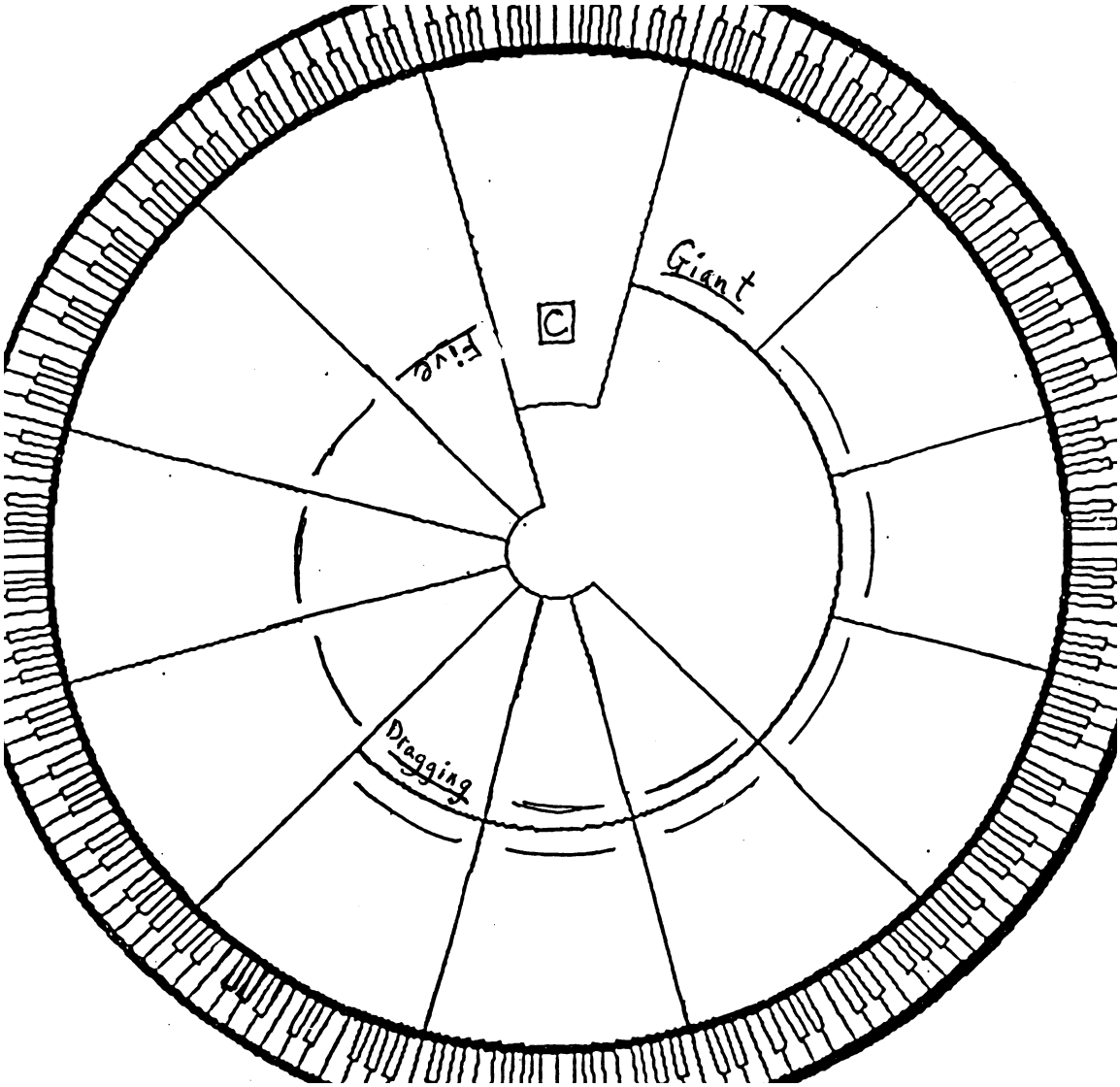
TURN THE PAGE UPSIDE -DOWN!

4.6 Write phrases to memorize keynotes in the circle of fifths

• A piece based on a certain scale and key note is said to be in a certain <u>key.</u>
The terms "key" and "key note" are often interchangeable.
• Memorize the order of keys in the circle of fifths by remembering the two phrases below. The first letter of each word is the letter of a key.

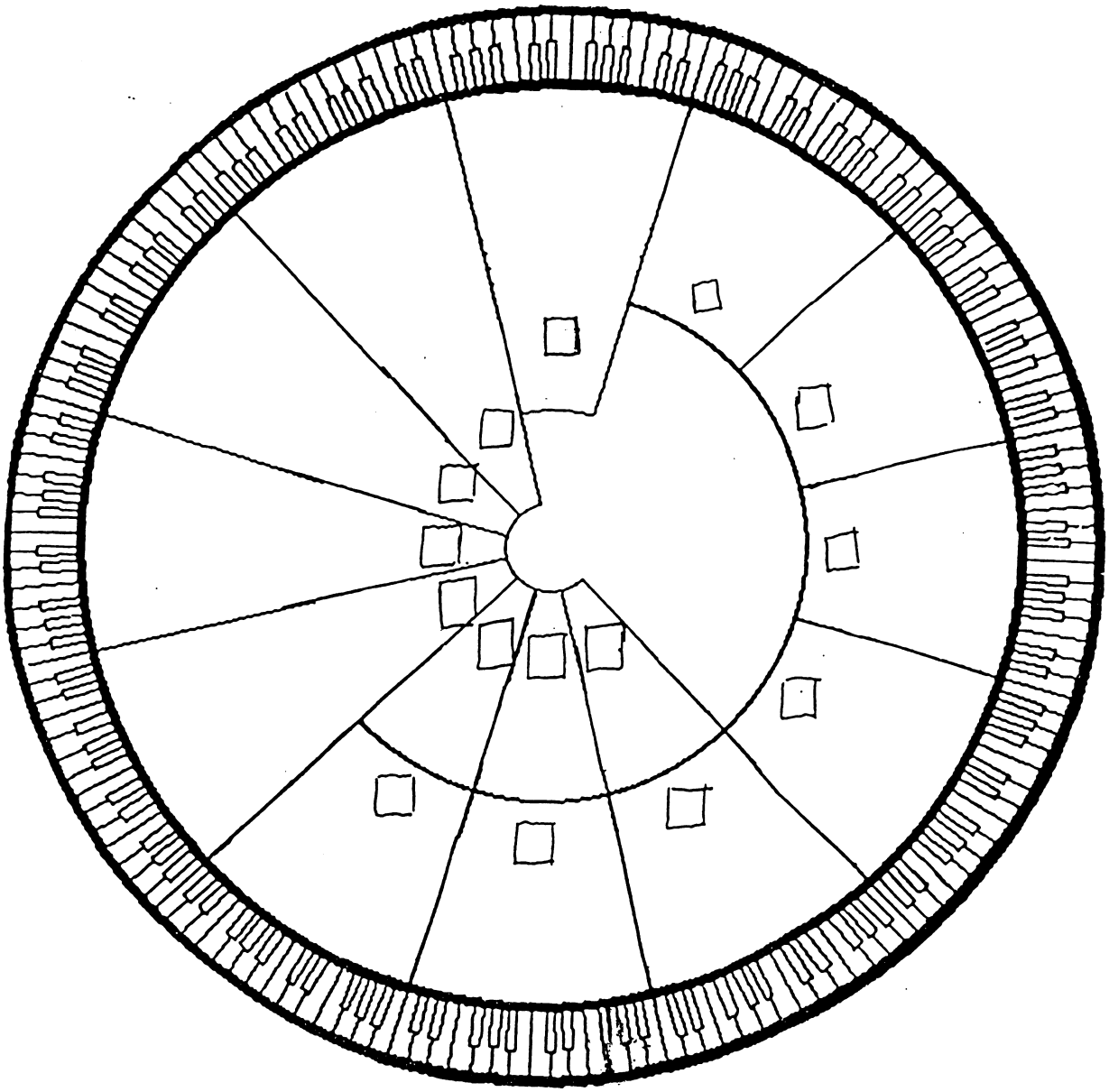
---

1. *COMPLETE* the phrases, "<u>G</u>iant <u>D</u>ogs <u>A</u>lways <u>E</u>at <u>B</u>efore <u>F</u>urry <u>C</u>ats" and
"<u>F</u>ive <u>B</u>ig <u>E</u>lephants <u>A</u>re <u>D</u>ragging <u>G</u>arbage <u>C</u>ans"
which begin in the top right and left portions of the circle below.
DO NOT DRAW dots on the circular keyboard.

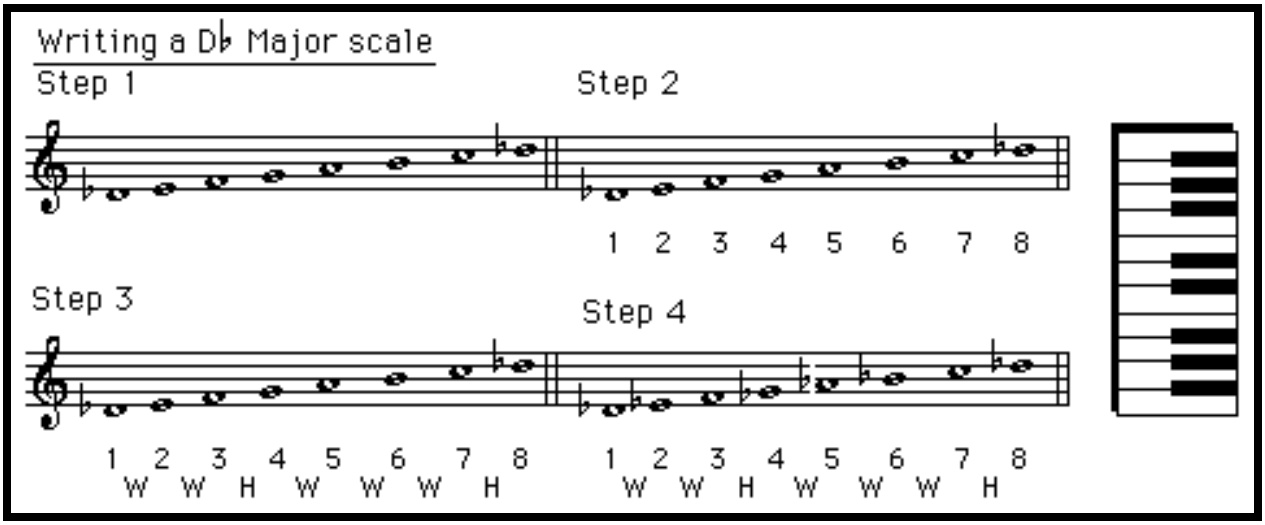


4.7 Fill in the keys, in order, on the circle of fifths

REWRITE the keys in the circle of fifths as you did on worksheet 4.5. This time use the phrases on worksheet 4.6 to help. Also remember that many keys have flats or sharps next to them.



4.8 Write major scales on the staff



- Given a key note, be able to write its major scale on a staff.

---

1. a. *DRAW* eight note heads in ascending order beginning with the key note. Do not skip any lines or spaces. Leave enough room between notes to insert sharps or flats.

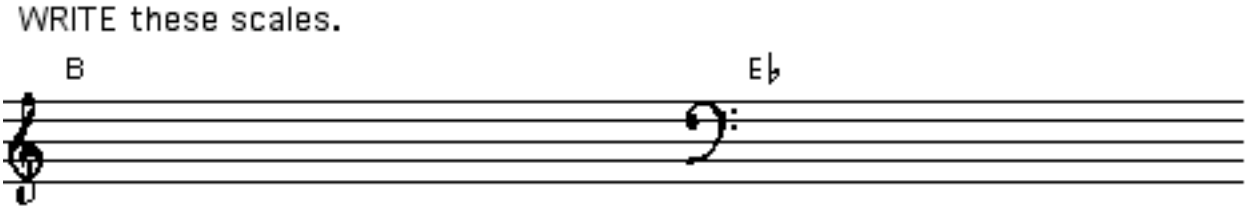
   b. *CHECK* that the first note has the same letter name as the last.

   c. If the key note has a sharp or flat, *DRAW* a sharp or flat to the left of the first and last notes.

2. *WRITE* the numbers 1 to 8 below the notes.

3. *WRITE* W's and H's between the numbers in the pattern of whole and half steps which you have learned for major scales.

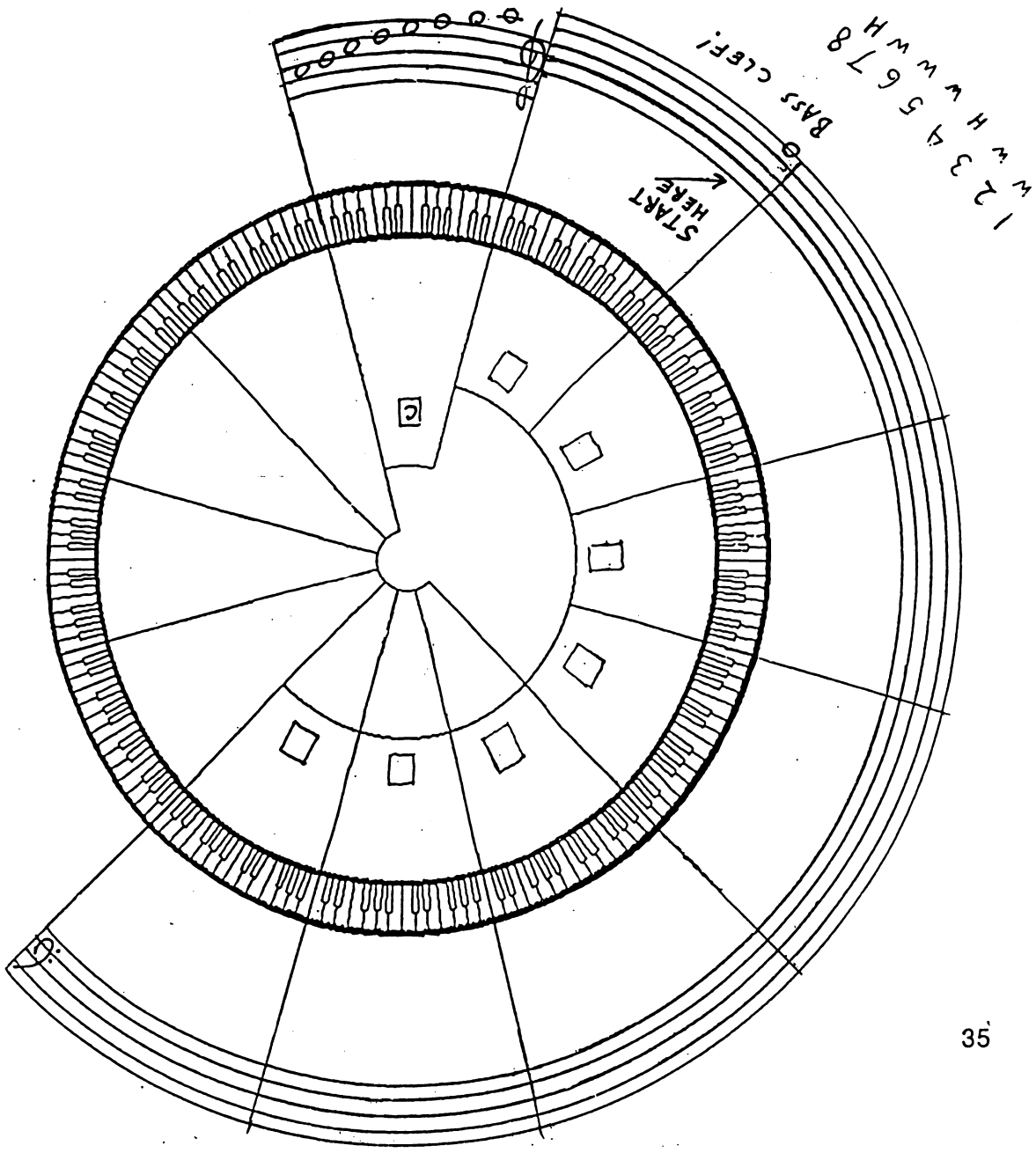
4. *DRAW* a sharp or flat in front of each note, if needed, to correspond to the pattern of whole and half steps between the numbers.



4.9 Write the sharp scales on a staff in the circle of fifths

- The scales on the right and bottom of the circle of fifths have sharps.

TURN the book upside-down.
WRITE scales on the circular staff. Scales should be arranged according to keys on the circle of fifths. It may be helpful to use dots on the keyboard.
NOTICE how many sharps are in each scale.



4.10 Write the flat scales on a staff in the circle of fifths

- The scales on the left and bottom of the circle of fifths have flats.

WRITE the scales which have flats on the circular staff.
BEGIN on the bottom. Scales should be arranged according to keys on the circle of fifths.
NOTICE how many flats are in each scale.