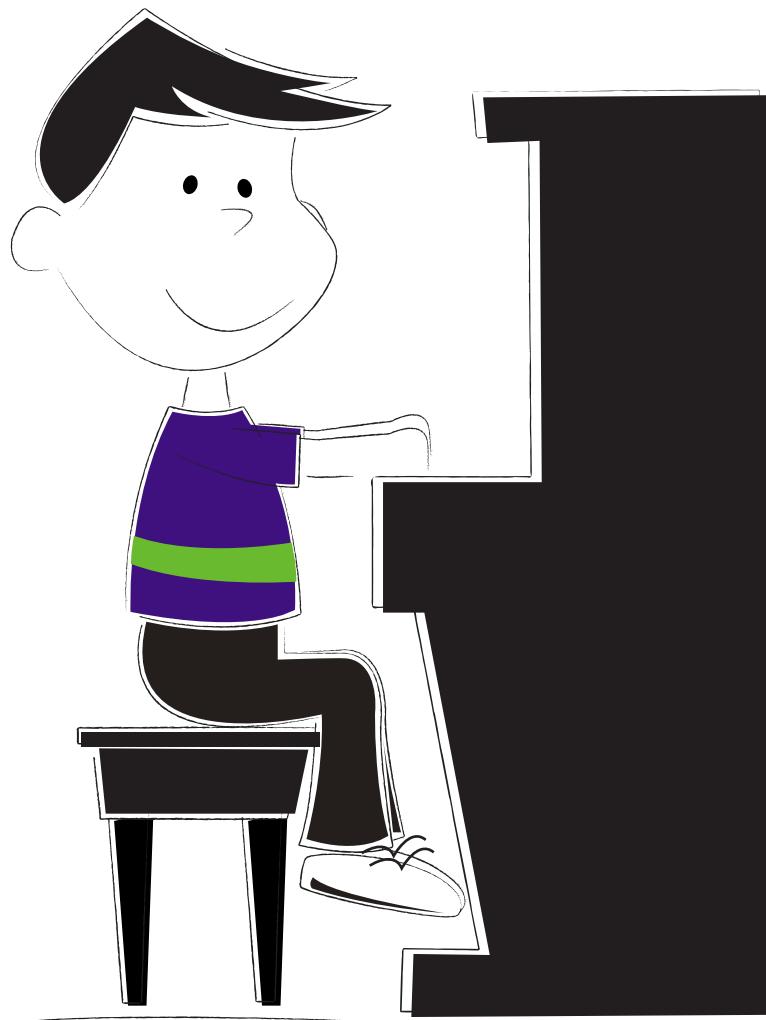


**Level 1A Piano Course** from MakingMusicFun.net

**An All-in-One Beginner Piano Course** by Andrew Fling

# Piano





## Level 1A All-in-One Beginner Piano Course

### Instructions for Use

1. This beginner level piano book is intended for students with no prior musical experience. Each lesson is carefully sequenced to insure maximum success.
2. Many of the pieces in this method have partner pieces. They allow students to focus on developing specific skills, such as rhythm or meter, and should be practiced together.
3. Theory lessons, such as *Color That Note!* and *It All Adds Up!*, should be explained and started during the lesson, and then completed at home. Additional theory worksheets and games may be printed from the MakingMusicFun.net website.
4. Alfred's Basic Piano Library Lesson Book Level 1B is recommended upon completion of this course.

Written and Illustrated by Andrew Fling

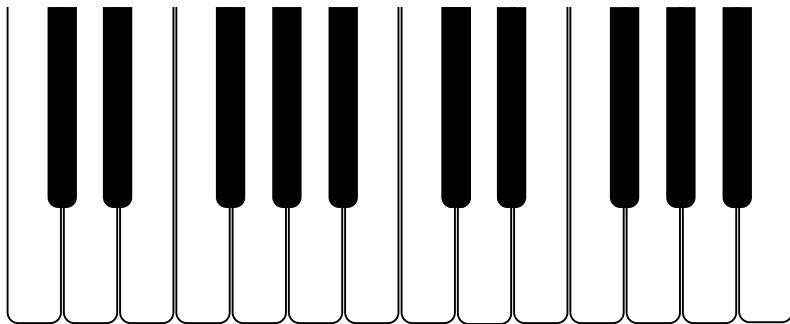


First Edition

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All rights reserved.

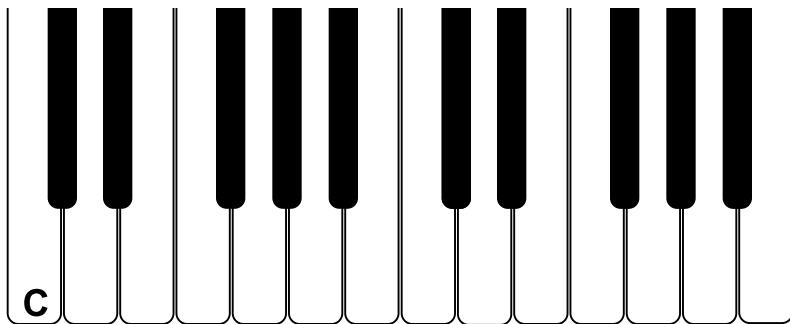
# The Piano Keyboard

The piano keyboard is made up of white and black keys. The black keys are grouped in sets of 2 and sets of 3.



Draw a circle around the black keys in sets of two, and a square around the black keys in sets of three.

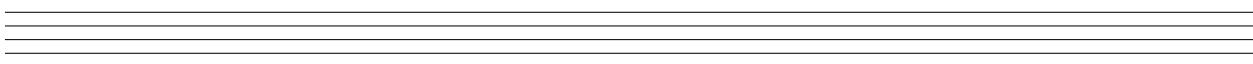
The key to the left of the set of two black keys is **C**. One of them already has the alphabet letter **C** on it. Find and label the other one.



The C in the middle of your piano is called **MIDDLE C**. Find and play that one. Then find and play all the rest.

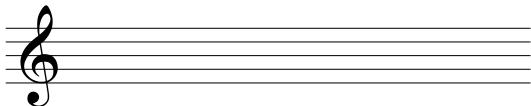
# The Staff

The staff is made up of five lines and four spaces.

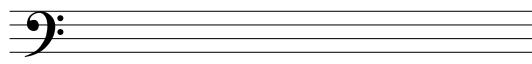


These lines and spaces show us which notes to play. The higher the notes are on the staff, the higher they sound.

When a TREBLE CLEF appears on the staff the notes will be high. You will typically play these notes with your **RIGHT HAND**.

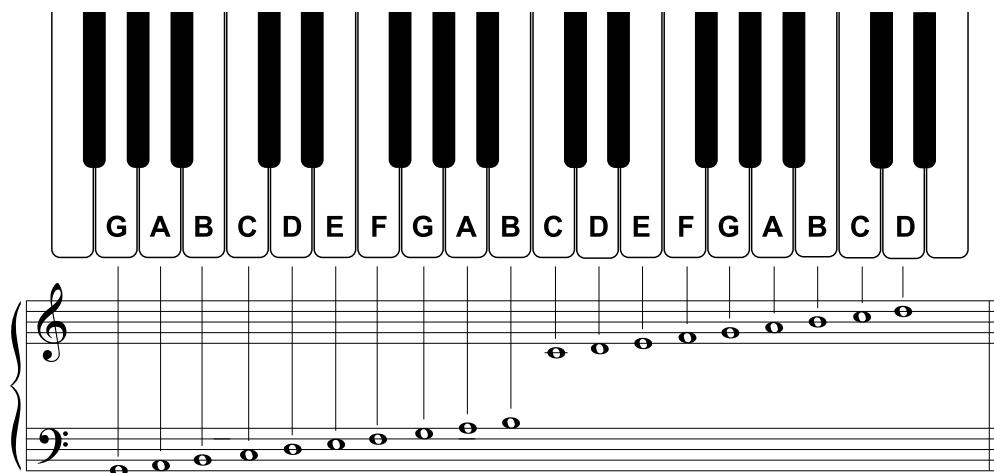


When a BASS CLEF appears on the staff the notes will be low. You will typically play these notes with your LEFT HAND.



## The Grand Staff

The grand staff combines the TREBLE CLEF STAFF (top) and BASS CLEF STAFF (bottom) with a brace and bar line.



# Rhythm

Music is made up of patterns of short and long rhythms and rests. The rhythms and rests in this book are the **WHOLE NOTE/REST**, the **DOTTED HALF NOTE**, the **HALF NOTE/REST** and the **QUARTER NOTE/REST**.



The **WHOLE NOTE** lasts for **4 BEATS** (Count 1-2-3-4).



The DOTTED HALF NOTE lasts for **3 BEATS** (Count 1-2-3).



The HALF NOTE lasts for **2 BEATS** (Count 1-2).



The QUARTER NOTE lasts for **1 BEAT** (Count 1).



The WHOLE REST lasts for the **WHOLE MEASURE** no matter how many beats there are.



The HALF REST lasts for **2 BEATS** (Count 1-2).



The QUARTER REST lasts for **1 BEAT** (Count 1).

## Time Signature

Each piece of music that you play has two numbers at the beginning that look like a fraction (but it's not). It's a **TIME SIGNATURE**.

The **TOP NUMBER** tells you how many beats there are in each measure.

The **BOTTOM NUMBER** tells you what kind of note gets the beat.

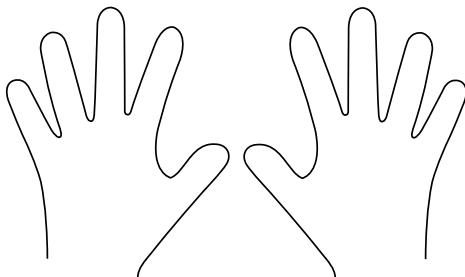
- 4 4 beats in each measure
- 4 The **QUARTER NOTE** gets the beat

## Piano Fingering

Learning the correct fingers to play the notes of a piece of music is an important part of perfecting that piece of music. The music in this book includes numbers above and below the grand staff. These numbers correspond to the five fingers of the right and left hand.

Thumb (1), Index Finger (2), Middle Finger (3), Ring Finger (4) and Pinky (5)

Write the correct finger numbers on the fingers of the right and left hand.



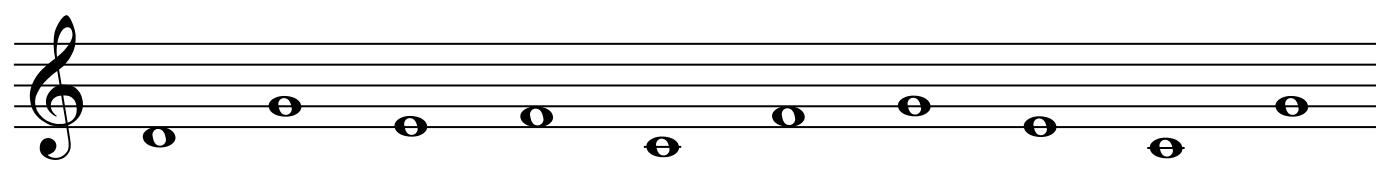
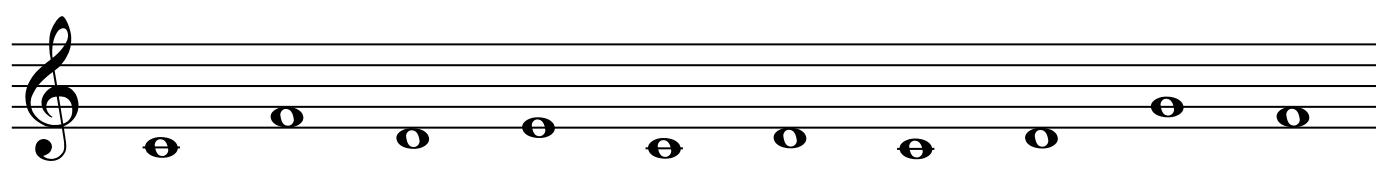
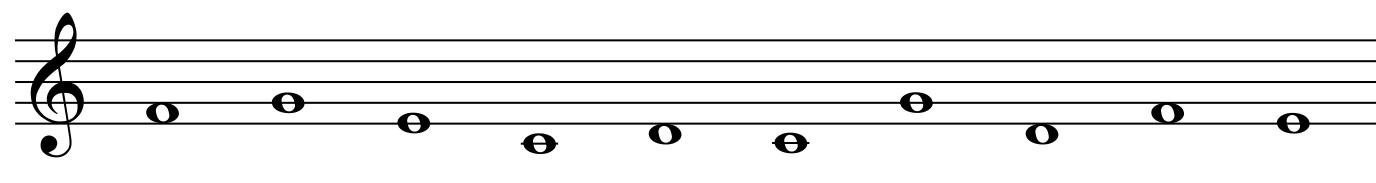
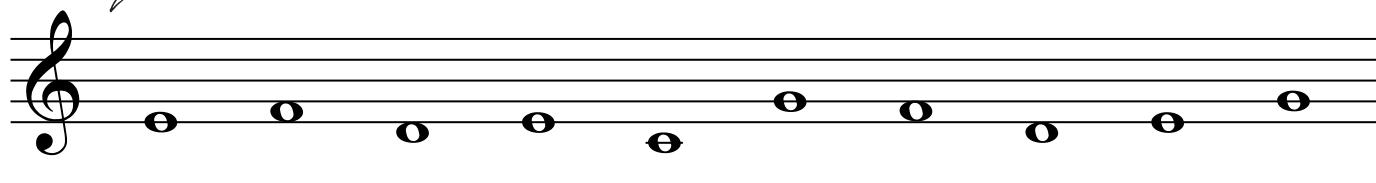
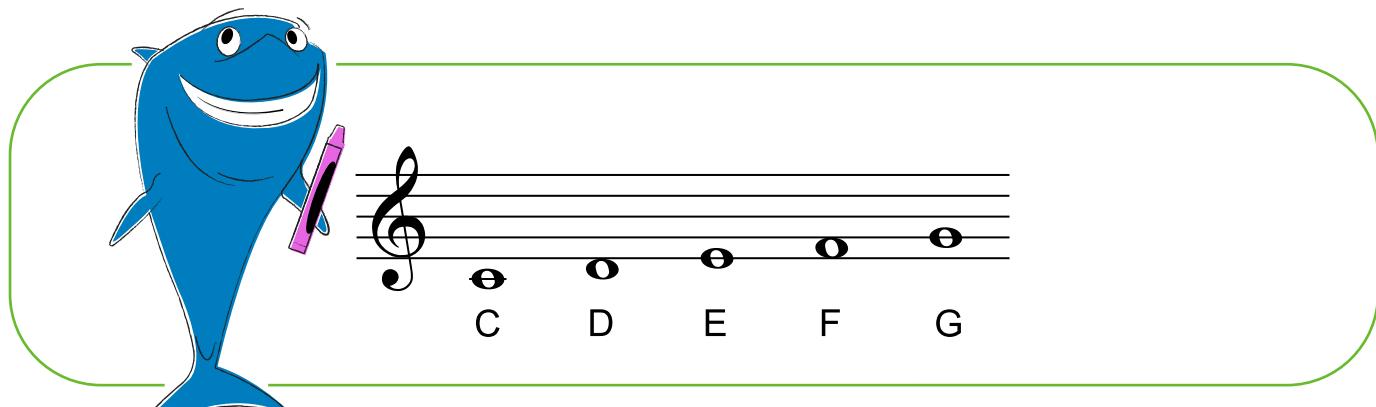
That's the basics. Complete the **Color That Note! Note Naming Activity/Treble Clef** lesson on page 5 to learn your first five notes, and you will be ready for your first piece.

# Color That Note!

Note Naming Activity | Treble Clef (G Clef)/C Position

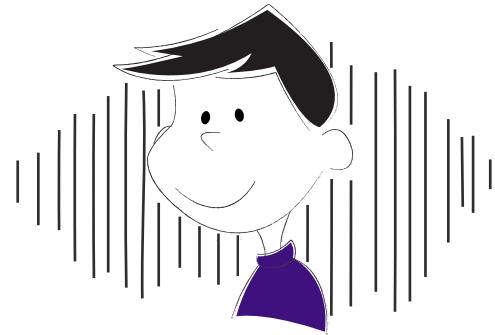
## Instructions

Choose 5 crayons. Next, color over the first 5 whole notes (C-G) with a different color for each note. (Example: C is blue, D is red, etc.) Then identify each note with its correct alphabet letter, and color them the same color that you did for the first five notes.



# I Like Being Me

C Position



Notes represent **SOUND**.

This is the **QUARTER NOTE**. It gets **ONE BEAT** of sound.

How many quarter notes do you see? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many beats does a quarter note get? \_\_\_\_\_

Moderato

1 2 3 4 5 5

C D E F G G, C D E F G.

*mf*

When I play pi - a - no, I like be - ing me.

***I Like Being Me*** is the partner piece to ***Georgie Porgie***. Assigning these songs together will allow students the best opportunity to drill the *quarter note* and the rhythmic phrases that appear in both pieces.

**Teacher Hint:** Ask student to identify measures with similar rhythms, and then teach them together.

# Georgie Porgie

C Position



This is a **HALF NOTE**. It gets **TWO BEATS** of sound.

How many half notes do you see? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many beats does a half note get? \_\_\_\_\_

Words by Mother Goose

Moderato

1 2 3 4

Geor-gie Por-gie      pudding and pie,      kissed the girls and      made them cry.

5 2 5 1

When the boys came      out to play,      Geor - gie Por - gie      ran a - way.

**Georgie Porgie** is the partner piece to ***I Like Being Me***.

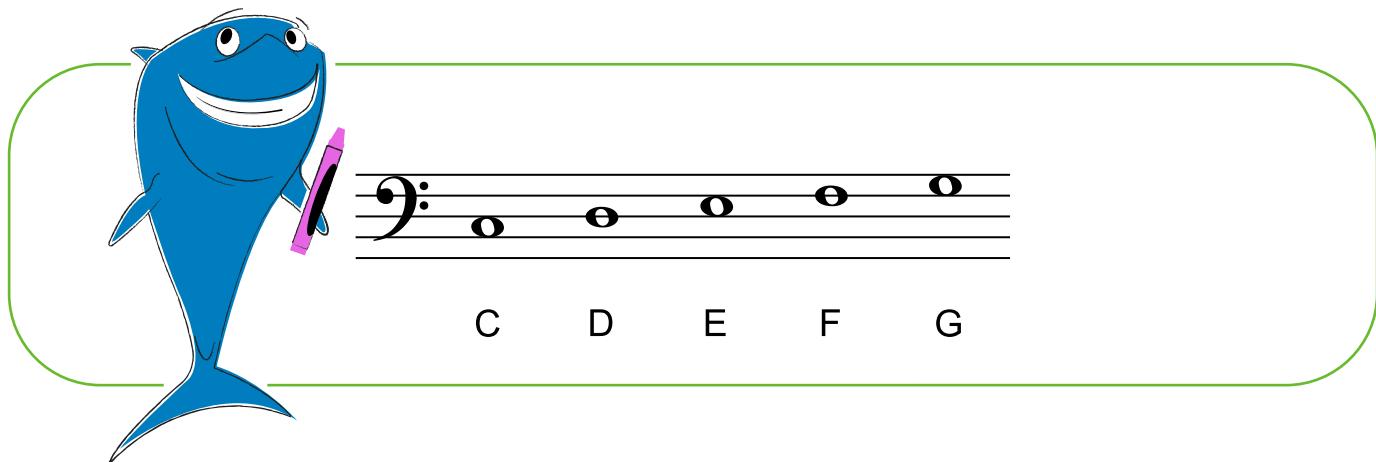
**Teacher Hint:** Ask student to identify measures with similar rhythms, and then teach them together.

# Color That Note!

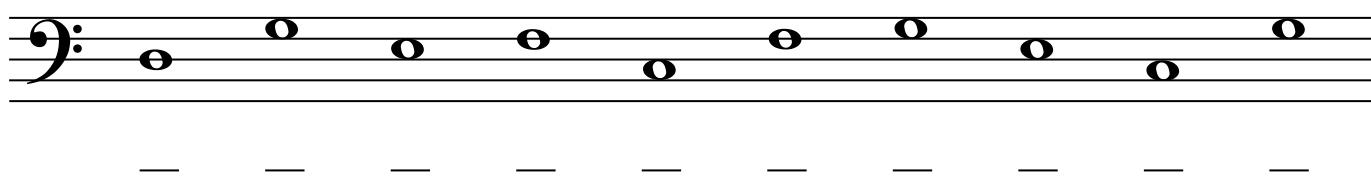
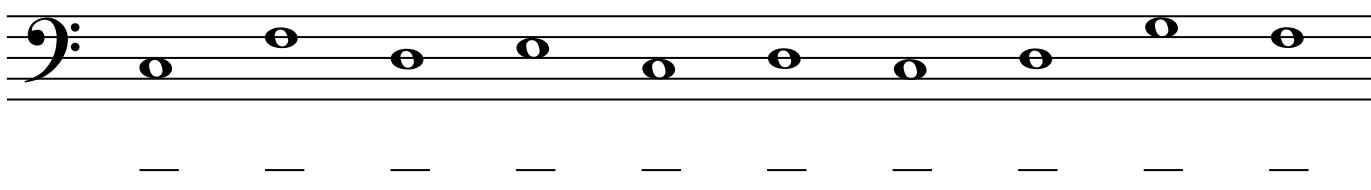
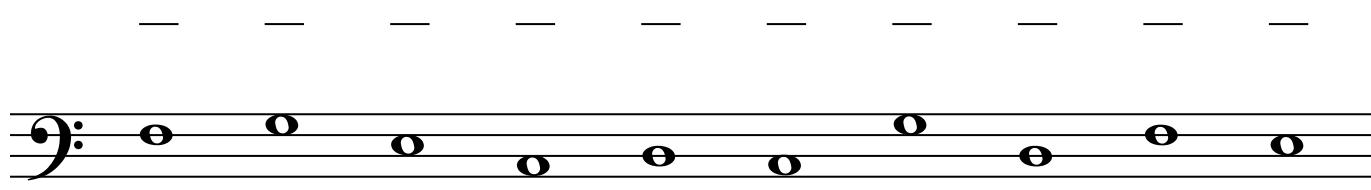
Note Naming Activity | Bass Clef (F Clef)/C Position

## Instructions

Choose 5 crayons. Next, color over the first 5 whole notes (C-G) with a different color for each note. (Example: C is blue, D is red, etc.) Then identify each note with its correct alphabet letter, and color them the same color that you did for the first five notes.

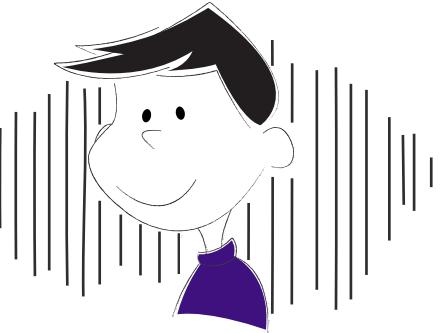


A cartoon blue dolphin with a wide smile and large eyes is holding a pink crayon. It is standing next to a bass clef staff with five whole notes. Below the staff, the letters C, D, E, F, and G are written under each note respectively. The entire section is enclosed in a green rounded rectangular border.



# I Like Being Me (Bass Clef)

C Position



This is the **WHOLE NOTE**. It gets **FOUR BEATS** of sound.

How many whole notes do you see? \_\_\_\_\_

How many beats does a whole note get? \_\_\_\_\_

Moderato

mf

C D E F G G, C D E F G.

5 4 3 2 1 1 5 4 3 2

When I play piano I like being me.

***I Like Being Me (Bass Clef)*** is the partner piece to ***Mary at the Kitchen Door***.

**Teacher Hint:** Ask student to sing the alphabet letters of the notes as they play them as another opportunity to drill note names.

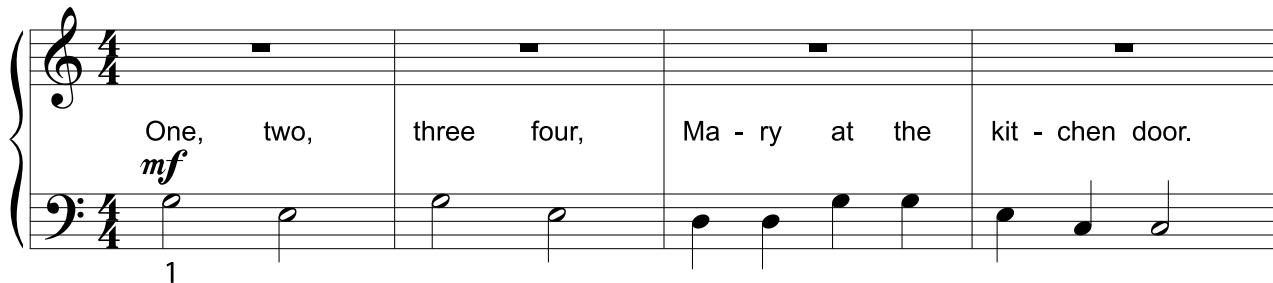
# Mary at the Kitchen Door

C Position



Which hand typically plays the notes of the treble clef? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which hand typically plays the notes of the bass clef? \_\_\_\_\_

Moderato



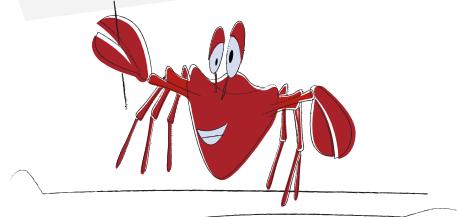
***Mary at the Kitchen Door*** is the partner piece to ***I Like Being Me (Bass Clef)***.

**Teacher Hint:** Ask student to say “half-note” each time they play a half note. Substituting this two syllable spoken phrase for counting may dramatically increase their ability to perform this rhythm accurately.

# It All Adds Up!

Rhythm Worksheet/Whole, Half and Quarter Notes

$$\text{♩} + \text{♩} = 2$$



## Instructions

Provide the answers for the first column of "music math facts" (Example:  $\text{♩} + \text{♩} = 2$ ). Then try to beat your score with more correct answers, or by racing the clock to complete the second and third columns in record time.

$$\text{♩} + \text{♩} =$$

$$\text{o} + \text{♩} =$$

$$\text{♩} + \text{♩} =$$

$$\text{o} + \text{♩} =$$

$$\text{♩} + \text{o} =$$

$$\text{o} + \text{o} =$$

$$\text{o} + \text{o} =$$

$$\text{♩} + \text{o} =$$

$$\text{o} + \text{o} =$$

$$\text{o} + \text{♩} =$$

$$\text{o} + \text{o} =$$

$$\text{♩} + \text{♩} =$$

$$\text{o} + \text{o} =$$

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ of 10

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ of 10

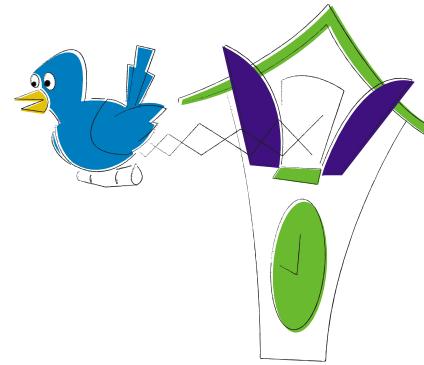
Score: \_\_\_\_\_ of 10

## Bonus Question:

$$\text{o} + \text{o} =$$

# Tick-Tock

C Position



A dot above or below a note indicates that the note should be played **STACCATO**.

Staccato is an Italian term which means **SHORT**.

Words and Music by Andrew Fling

Andante

1

Tick - tock, tick - tock, lit - tle cuc - koo, sing your pre - tty song.

5

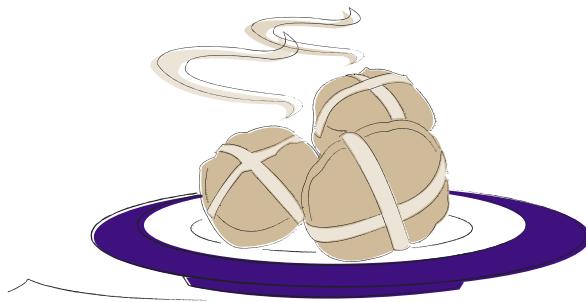
May - be next time when I see you I will sing a - long.

**Tick-Tock** is the partner piece to **Hot Cross Buns**.

**Teacher Hint:** Staccato notes sound a lot like popcorn popping when played correctly. Using the phrase, “popcorn notes”, will help students understand how to perform these short and lively notes.

# Hot Cross Buns

C Position



ADAGIO  
ANDANTE  
MODERATO  
ALLEGRO

These are **TEMPO MARKINGS**. They tell you how fast or slow to play the music.

**ADAGIO** is Italian for **SLOW**.  
**ANDANTE** is Italian for **WALKING SPEED**.  
**MODERATO** is Italian for **MODERATELY**.  
**ALLEGRO** is Italian for **FAST**.

Moderato

3

Hot cross buns.

Hot cross buns.

Music notation for the first line of the song. It consists of two measures. The first measure has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It contains a half note followed by a half note, with a dynamic of *mf* and the lyrics "Hot cross buns." The second measure has a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It contains a half note followed by a half note, with the lyrics "Hot cross buns." The notes are represented by vertical stems with small circles at the top.

One a penny, two a penny, Hot cross buns.

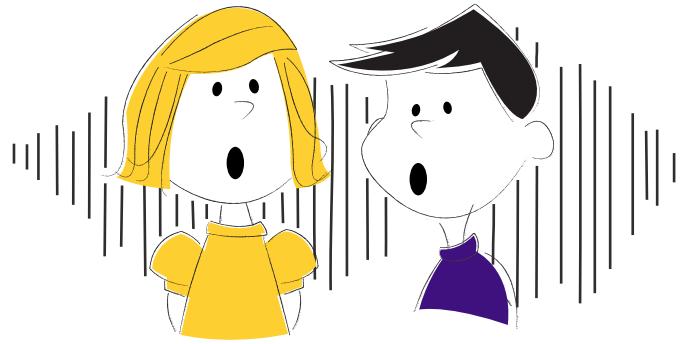
Music notation for the second line of the song. It consists of four measures. The first measure has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It contains a half note followed by a half note, with the lyrics "One a penny, two a penny," and a dynamic of *p*. The second measure has a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It contains a half note followed by a half note, with the lyrics "Hot cross buns." The third measure has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It contains a half note followed by a half note, with the lyrics "Hot cross buns." The fourth measure has a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It contains a half note followed by a half note, with the lyrics "Hot cross buns." The notes are represented by vertical stems with small circles at the top.

**Hot Cross Buns** is the partner piece to **Tick-Tock**.

**Teacher Hint:** Ask student to say, “half-note - half-note - hold-that-whole-note” as they play measures 1-2, 3-4 and 7-8. The use of these phrases will encourage a correct rhythmic performance.

# Let Us Sing!

C Position



This is a **DYNAMIC MARKING**. It tells us how loud or soft to play the music.

**p** stands for **PIANO** which means **SOFT**.

**mp** stands for **MEZZO PIANO** which means **MEDIUM SOFT**.

**mf** stands for **MEZZO FORTE** which means **MEDIUM LOUD**.

**f** stands for **FORTE** which means **LOUD**.

Words and Music by Andrew Fling

Moderato

1

A musical score for a single voice. The tempo is 'Moderato'. The key signature is common time (indicated by '4'). The vocal line consists of four measures. The lyrics are: 'Praise Him with trum - pets,' and 'Praise to the King.' The dynamic 'f' (forte) is marked under the first note of the first measure, and 'p' (piano) is marked under the first note of the third measure.

A musical score for a single voice. The key signature is common time (indicated by '4'). The vocal line consists of four measures. The lyrics are: 'God of our Fa - thers,' and 'Let us sing.' The dynamic 'f' (forte) is marked under the first note of the first measure, and '8' (octave) is marked above the first note of the fourth measure.

**Let Us Sing!** is the partner piece to **I Like Bananas**.

# I Like Bananas

## C Position



A curved line above or below two or more notes that are different is a **SLUR**. Slurs make notes smooth and connected.

How many slurs do you see? \_\_\_\_\_  
How will you play these notes differently? \_\_\_\_\_

## Andante

1

like ba - na - na-s, co - co - nuts and grapes.

*mf*

8

That's why they call me TAR- ZAN OF THE APES!

3 8

***I Like Bananas*** is the partner piece to ***Let Us Sing!***

**Teacher Hint:** Students struggle to play with rounded fingers. Identifying common problems with phrases like *Flamingo Fingers* (bending fingers in the opposite direction like flamingo's bends their legs) or *Mummy Fingers* (straight fingers) can make your instruction more memorable and way more fun!

# Cobbler, Cobbler

C Position



This is a **SHARP**. It raises notes one **HALF STEP**. (On a piano keyboard, the very next key to the left or right is a half step.)

How many F#'s do you see? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which fingers will you use to play this new note? \_\_\_\_\_

Words by Mother Goose

Andante

1

*mf*

Cob-bler, cob-bler, mend my shoe. Have it done by half past two.

2

Half past two is far too late. Have it done by half past eight.

**Cobbler, Cobbler** is the partner piece to **Mr. Botter's Cat**.

**Teacher Hint:** Ask student to identify the recurring rhythmic pattern (seven quarter notes followed by a quarter rest). Recognizing this pattern will greatly enhance their ability to perform this piece.

# Mr. Botter's Cat

C Position



How many F#'s do you see? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which fingers will you use to play these notes? \_\_\_\_\_

Andante

4

Words and Music by Andrew Fling

*mf*

Mis - ter Bot - ter's cat, slept sound - ly on his mat. Each

1 2

Sheet music for Mr. Botter's Cat, Andante tempo, 4/4 time. The music consists of two staves. The top staff is for the treble clef and the bottom staff is for the bass clef. The lyrics are: Mis - ter Bot - ter's cat, slept sound - ly on his mat. Each. The music includes a dynamic marking 'mf' and a measure number '1 2'.

LH2\*

morn he rose up with - out fail, when Bot - ter stepped u - pon his tail.

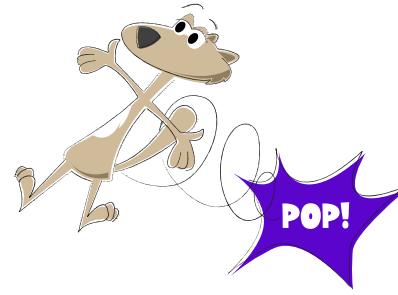
Sheet music for Mr. Botter's Cat, continuing from the previous page. The lyrics are: morn he rose up with - out fail, when Bot - ter stepped u - pon his tail. The dynamic marking 'LH2\*' is shown above the staff.

**Mr. Botter's Cat** is the partner piece to **Cobbler, Cobbler**.

\*Left Hand crosses over Right Hand.

# Pop! Goes the Weasel

C Position



17th Century English Nursery Rhyme

Andante

1

Round *mf* and round the cob - bler's bench the

1

mon - key chased the wea - sel, the

mon - key thought 'twas all in fun,

LH 1 and 2\*

POP! goes the wea - sel.

***Pop! Goes the Weasel*** is a partner piece with ***Higglety, Pigglety, Pop.***

\*Left Hand crosses over Right Hand.

# Higglety, Piggley, Pop



## Words by Mother Goose

## Andante

Musical notation for the song "The Dog Has Eaten the Mop." The notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody for the top staff is: dog (quarter note), has (quarter note), ea - ten (two eighth notes), the (quarter note), mop. (two eighth notes). The melody for the bottom staff is: dog (two eighth notes), has (two eighth notes), ea - ten (two eighth notes), the (two eighth notes), mop. (two eighth notes). The lyrics are: dog, has, ea - ten, the, mop., The.

Musical notation for 'Hush-a-bye Baby' with lyrics. The lyrics are: 'pig's in a hur - ry, the cat's in a flur - ry.' The piano accompaniment consists of a treble clef line with four short vertical dashes and a bass clef line with a single vertical dash. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble clef line with four short vertical dashes and a bass clef line with a single vertical dash.

A musical score for two voices. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "Hig - gel - ty, pig - gle - ty pop." The music consists of eighth notes and rests, with a fermata over the last note of the first line and a repeat sign with a '1' above it.

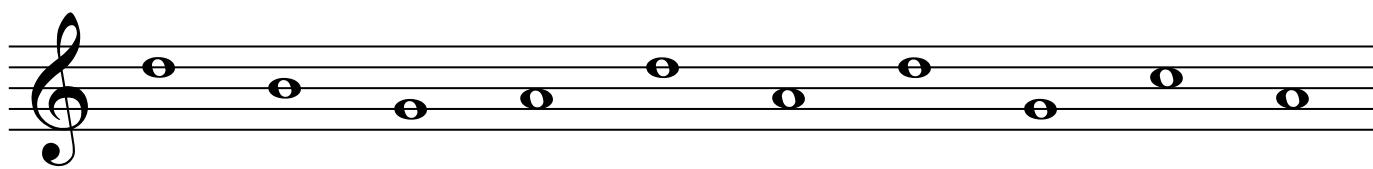
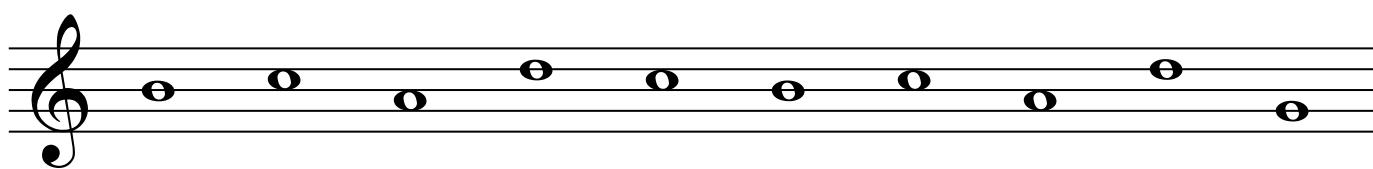
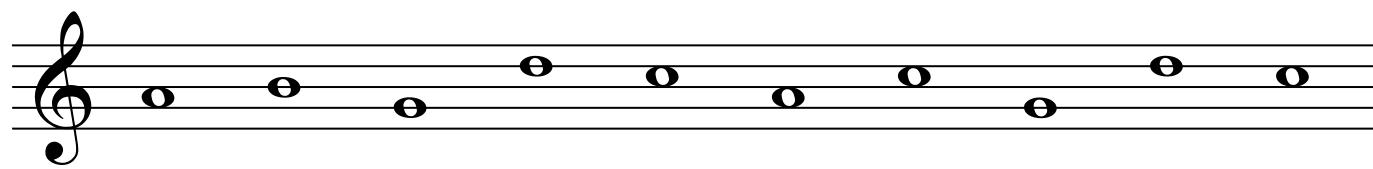
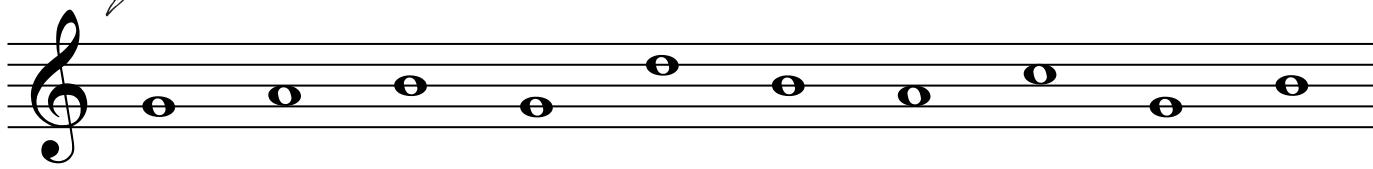
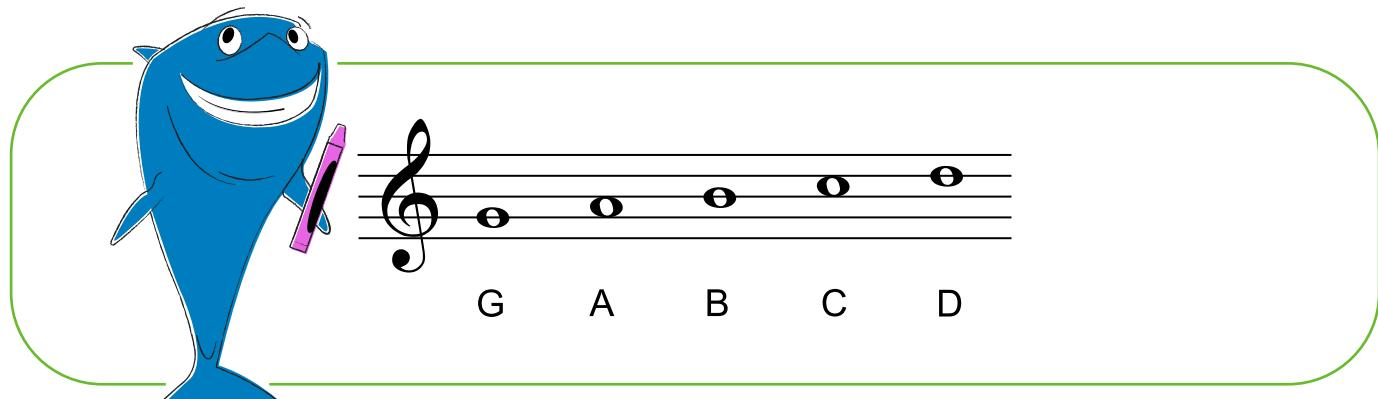
***Higglety, Pigglety, Pop*** is a partner piece with ***Pop! Goes the Weasel***.

# Color That Note!

Note Naming Activity | Treble Clef (G Clef)/G Position

## Instructions

Choose 5 crayons. Next, color over the first 5 whole notes (G-D) with a different color for each note. (Example: G is blue, A is red, etc.) Then identify each note with its correct alphabet letter, and color them the same color that you did for the first five notes.

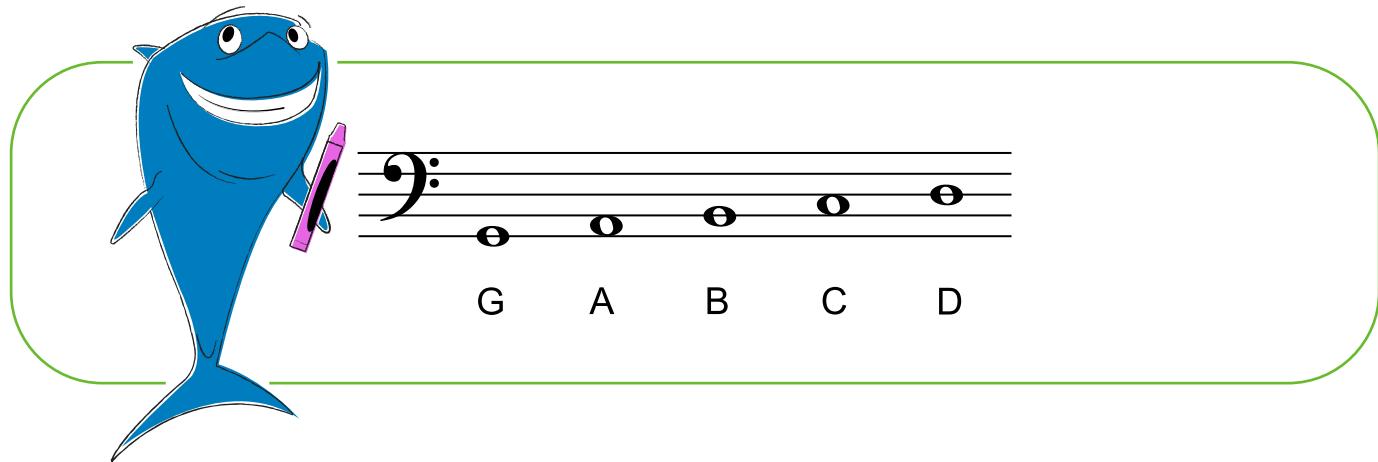


# Color That Note!

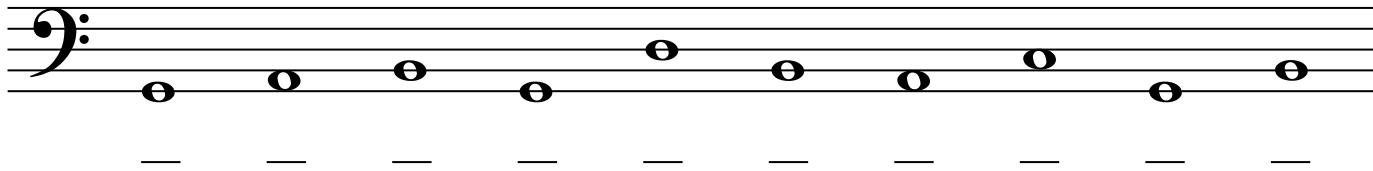
Note Naming Activity | Bass Clef (F Clef)/G Position

## Instructions

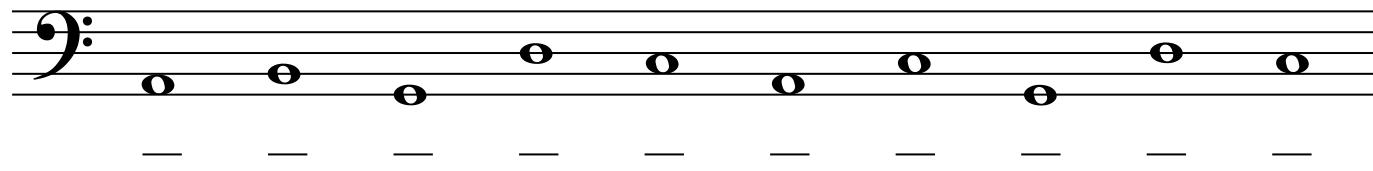
Choose 5 crayons. Next, color over the first 5 whole notes (G-D) with a different color for each note. (Example: G is blue, A is red, etc.) Then identify each note with its correct alphabet letter, and color them the same color that you did for the first five notes.



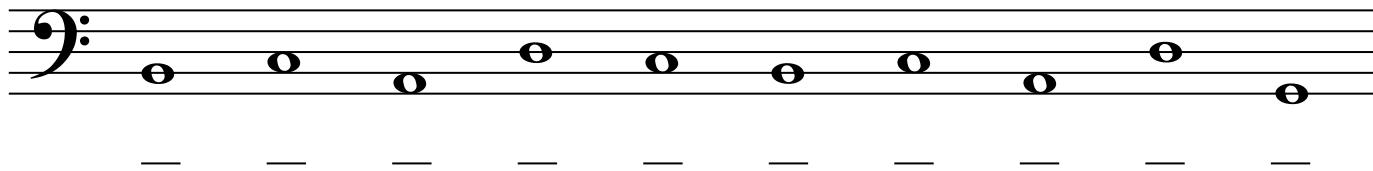
A cartoon blue dolphin is standing on the left, holding a pink crayon. To its right is a five-line staff with a bass clef. Five whole notes are placed on the staff, labeled G, A, B, C, and D from left to right. The entire section is enclosed in a green rounded rectangle.



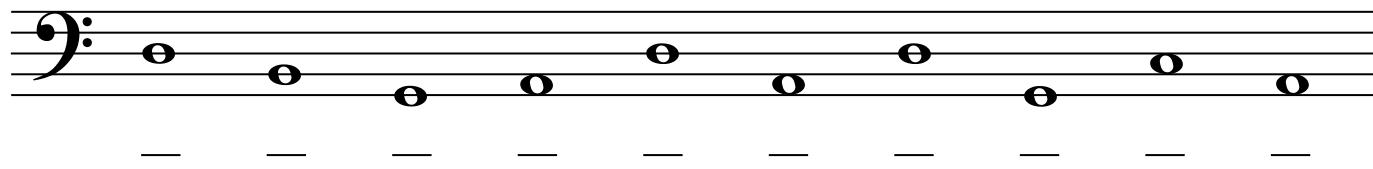
A five-line staff with a bass clef. It contains ten whole notes, each with a dashed line underneath for coloring.



A five-line staff with a bass clef. It contains ten whole notes, each with a dashed line underneath for coloring.



A five-line staff with a bass clef. It contains ten whole notes, each with a dashed line underneath for coloring.



A five-line staff with a bass clef. It contains ten whole notes, each with a dashed line underneath for coloring.

# Little Boy Blue

G Position



This is a **TIE**. It joins the value of two notes together.



Words by Mother Goose

Moderato

1

mf

blue come blow your horn, the

sheep's in the mead - ow, the cow's in the corn.

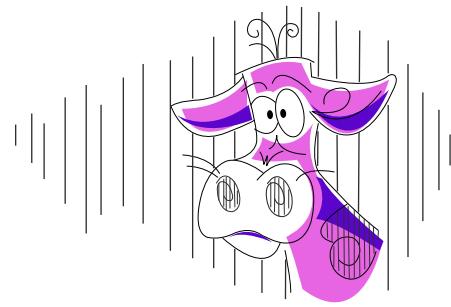
Where is the boy that tends the sheep?

Un - der the hay - stack, fast a - sleep.

**Little Boy Blue** is the partner piece to **Miss O'Leary's Cow**.

# Miss O'Leary's Cow

G Position



Words and Music by Andrew Fling

Andante

1

Miss *mf* O' Lear - y's cow was brown,

When she took it in to town.

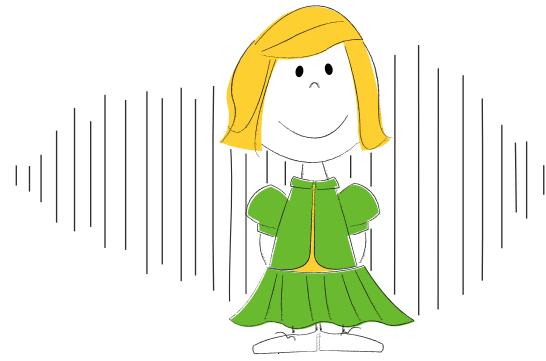
She came back and it was pink. And

gave you straw - ber - ry milk to drink.

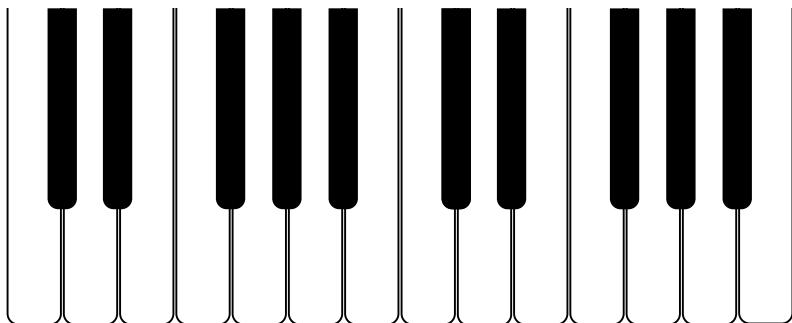
**Miss O'Leary's Cow** is the partner piece to **Little Boy Blue**.

# Daffydowndilly

G Position



Test your skills by labeling the white keys on this keyboard.



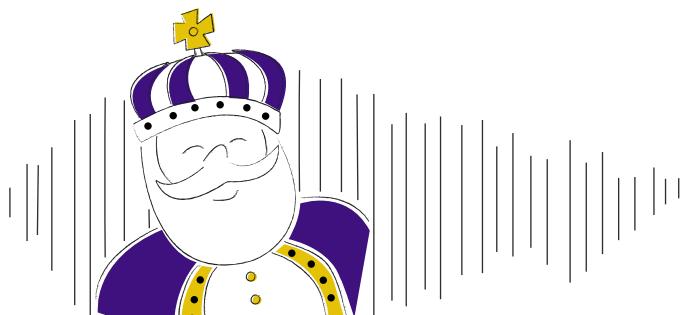
Andante

Words by Nathaniel Hawthorne

A musical score for the first line of the song. It consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is Andante. The lyrics are: "Daf - fy - down - dil - ly has come to town,". The measure number 1 is at the beginning of the line, and 2 is at the end.

A musical score for the second line of the song. It consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "In a yel - low pet - ti - coat, and a green gown." The measure number 1 is at the beginning of the line, and 2 is at the end.

**Daffydowndilly** is the partner piece to **Old King Cole**.



Andante

# Old King Cole

G Position

Words by Mother Goose

1

Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, and a

*mf*

2

mer - ry old soul was he. He

1

2

mer - ry old soul was he. He

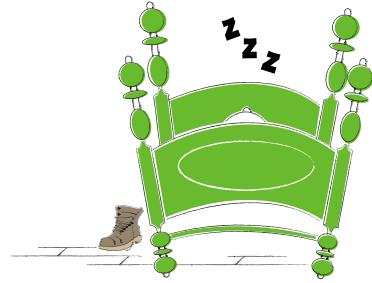
called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, and he

called for his fid - dlers three.

**Old King Cole** is a partner piece with **Daffydowndilly**.

# Diddle, Diddle Dumpling

C Position



Words by Mother Goose

Allegro

1

Did - dle, did - dle dump - ling, my son John,

*mp*

2

4

Went to bed with his trou - sers on.

8

1  
3

One shoe off and one shoe on,

8

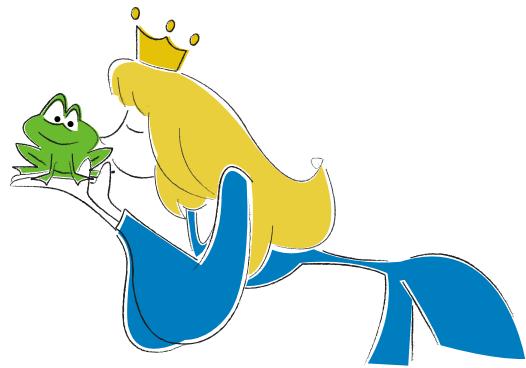
Did - dle, did - dle dump - ling, my son John.

8

**Diddle, Diddle Dumpling** is a partner piece with **Pretty Princess**.

# Pretty Princess

## C Position



## Rhythm Review

How many quarter notes do you see? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many beats does a quarter note get? \_\_\_\_\_

## Traditional

Allegro

4

There was a pret - ty prin-cess, a prin-cess, a prin-cess, there

*mf*

1 3

A musical score for a voice and piano. The vocal line is in soprano C-clef, with lyrics: 'was a pretty prin - cess, long a - go.' The piano part is in bass F-clef, with a dynamic marking of 8. The score consists of two staves and four measures.

**Pretty Princess** is the partner piece to **Diddle, Diddle Dumpling**.

**Teacher Hint:** Ask student to identify measures with similar rhythms, and then teach them together.

# Jingle Bells

G Position Review



Words and Music by James Lord Pierpont

Allegro

3

Jin - gle bells, jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way,

*mf*

1 5

Sheet music for the first line of the song, showing treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (4/4). The bass staff has a common time signature (4/4). The vocal line is "Jin - gle bells, jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way," with a dynamic marking of *mf*. Fingerings 1 and 5 are indicated below the bass staff.

Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse o - pen sleigh, —

Sheet music for the second line of the song, showing treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (4/4). The bass staff has a common time signature (4/4). The vocal line is "Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse o - pen sleigh, —".

Jin - gle bells, jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way,

Sheet music for the third line of the song, showing treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (4/4). The bass staff has a common time signature (4/4). The vocal line is "Jin - gle bells, jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way,".

Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse o - pen sleigh.

Sheet music for the fourth line of the song, showing treble and bass staves. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (4/4). The bass staff has a common time signature (4/4). The vocal line is "Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse o - pen sleigh."

**Jingle Bells** is a partner piece with **Snake Dance**.

# Snake Dance

G Position Review



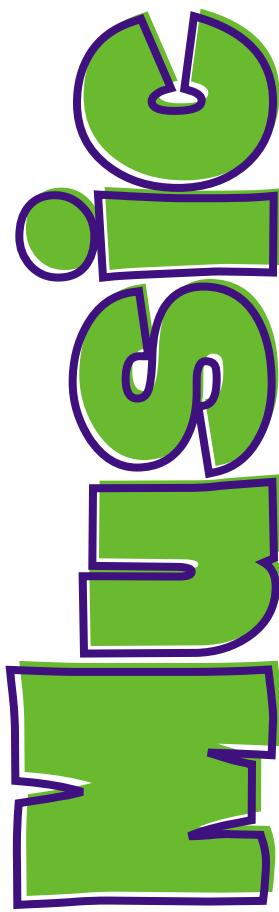
This is **FLAT**. It lowers notes one **HALF STEP**. (On a piano keyboard, the very next key to the left or right is a half step.)

How many B's can you count? \_\_\_\_\_  
What finger will you play this new note with? \_\_\_\_\_

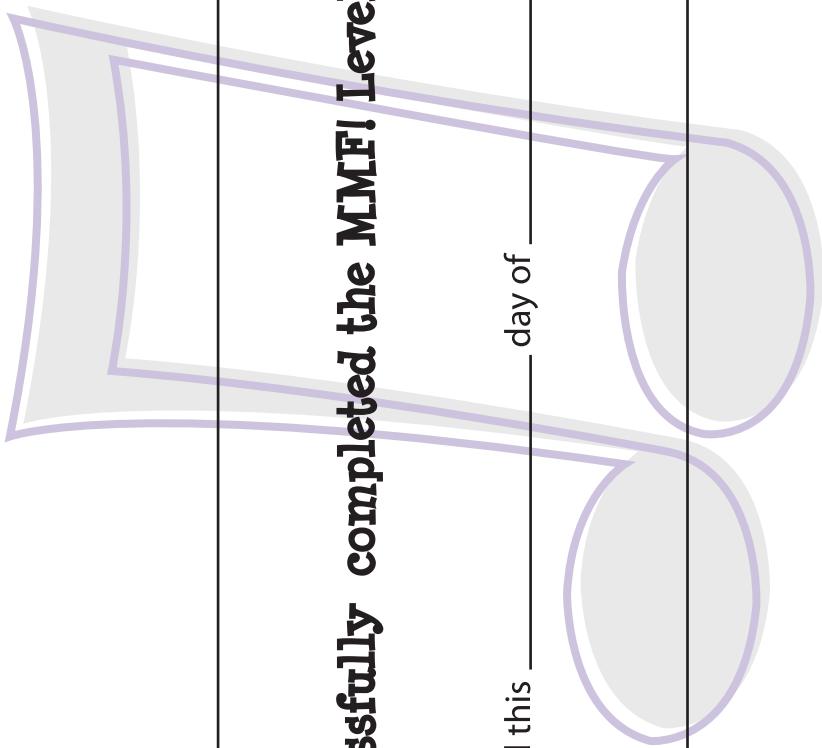
Andante

**Snake Dance** is a partner piece with **Jingle Bells**.

**Teacher Hint:** Ask student to identify other flat notes on the piano keyboard to demonstrate their understanding.



## Achievement Award



**has successfully completed the MME! Level 1A Piano Course**

Awarded this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_