



UNIT 1: SIMPLE AND COMPOUND METERS

$\frac{6}{8}$ TIME SIGNATURE

The top number in a time signature tells us how many beats are in each measure, and the bottom number tells us which kind of note gets one beat.

When a time signature has an 8 on the bottom, an eighth note (not a quarter note) gets one beat!

$\frac{6}{8}$ = 1 beat

Let's get started by reviewing $\frac{6}{8}$.



Whole notes, half notes and half rests are not used in $\frac{6}{8}$.

When you see the time signature $\frac{6}{8}$, think

eighth		=	1 beat
quarter		=	2 beats
dotted quarter		=	3 beats
dotted half note		=	6 beats
three eighthths		=	3 beats

quarter-eighth		=	3 beats
eighth rest		=	1 beat
quarter rest		=	2 beats
dotted quarter rest		=	3 beats
whole rest		=	rest a whole measure

STRONG AND WEAK BEATS

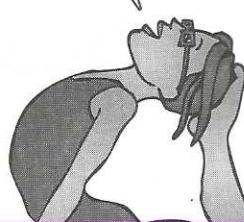
Certain beats are felt more strongly than others in the different time signatures. The first beat is almost always felt as a strong beat or **primary beat**. Half-way through the measure is the second strongest or **secondary beat**.

In the following examples, accents >'s are used to mark **primary** (the strongest) beats and tenutos —'s are used to mark the **secondary** (second strongest) beats. Weak beats are not marked.

$\frac{2}{4}$ || $\frac{4}{4}$ ||

$\frac{3}{4}$ || $\frac{6}{8}$ ||

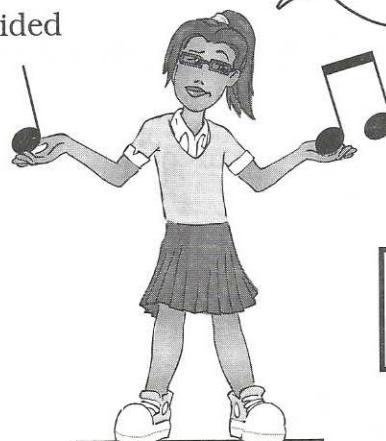
Some meters don't have secondary beats.
Doing yoga helps me think!





SIMPLE METERS

If the main beats can be subdivided into **two** equal parts, then the meter is called **simple**.



Breaking down a rhythm into smaller note values is called **SUBDIVIDING**.

2 main beats



Subdivide: 1 + 2 +

3 main beats



Subdivide: 1 + 2 + 3 +

4 main beats



Subdivide: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

COMPOUND METERS

If the main beats can be subdivided into **three** equal parts, then the meter is called **compound**.

The time signature **6/8** feels like two groups of three eighth notes.

6/8 is a compound meter.

2 main beats



Subdivide: 1 2 3 4 5 6



6/8

feel: ||

6/8 ||

6/8 ||



ALL ABOUT RHYTHM AND METERS

- A. Label each example as a simple meter (**S**) or a compound meter (**C**) in the boxes provided.
- B. Write in the counts below each rhythm.
- C. Use >'s to mark the primary beats. Use —'s to mark the secondary beats. (Only $\frac{4}{4}$ and $\frac{8}{8}$ have secondary beats.)
- D. Play and count the rhythms.

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

2. $\frac{6}{8}$ 

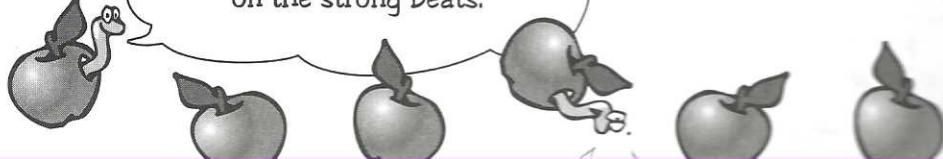
3. $\frac{4}{4}$ 

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

5. $\frac{4}{4}$ 

6. $\frac{6}{8}$ 

When you play and
count a rhythm, play loudest
on the strong beats.



GONE MISSING!

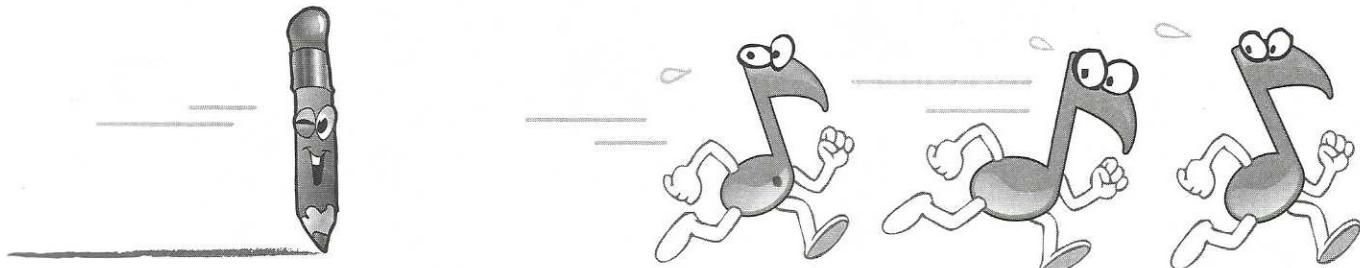


A. Provide one note or rest to complete each of the measures below.

1. $\frac{6}{8}$  |  |  |  |  | ||

2. $\frac{6}{8}$  |  |  |  |  | ||

3. $\frac{6}{8}$  |  |  |  |  | ||



B. Provide barlines for each of the rhythms. Write in the counts.

1. $\frac{6}{8}$  |  |  |  |  | ||
1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. $\frac{6}{8}$  |  |  |  |  | ||
1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. $\frac{6}{8}$  |  |  |  |  | ||
1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6



WORM CROSSING

Fill in the empty squares of the $\frac{6}{8}$ rhythm puzzle with notes or rests to complete each equation.

1. $\text{J.} + \text{ } = \text{J.}$

2. $\text{ } + \text{ } = \text{J.}$

3. $\text{ } + \text{ } = \text{J.}$

4. $\text{ } + \text{ } + \text{ } - \text{ } = \text{ }$

5. $\text{J.} - \text{ } = \text{J.}$

6. $\text{J.} - \text{ } = \text{ }$

7. $\text{ } + \text{J.} - \text{ } = \text{ }$

8. $\text{J.} = \text{ }$

9. $\text{J.} - \text{ } + \text{ } + \text{ } = \text{J.}$

10. $\text{ } + \text{ } = \text{J.}$

11. $\text{ } - \text{ } = \text{J.}$

12. $\text{ } + \text{ } = \text{J.}$

13. $\text{J.} - \text{ } + \text{ } = \text{J.}$

$\frac{6}{8}$ SOCCER



Allie has been studying $\frac{6}{8}$ time in her music lessons. She has recorded some of the goals for the highest scoring $\frac{6}{8}$ soccer game in history in note values on the scoreboard. To find out who won this incredible game, add the total counts written on each team's soccer balls to the counts already on the scoreboard. Write each team's total in the space provided. Remember, in $\frac{6}{8}$ meter an eighth note receives one count.

