Musical Signs and Vocabulary

Use the Music Mini-Dictionary to help you fill in the blanks and draw the signs:

Accent
Accidentals

Adagio
Allegro
Andante
Crescendo
Da Capo
Dal Segno
Decrescendo
Diminuendo
Double bar
Fermata
Fine
Flat
Forte

1. To accent is to play with ___________________.
2. The abbreviation for Dal Segno is ________________.
3. The word meaning “the end” is ________________.
4. This sign (⌒) is a ____________________.
5. ________________ means pause or hold.
6. ________________ and ________________ mean to become gradually softer.
7. A ________________ lowers a note by one half step.
8. D.C. is the abbreviation for ________________.
9. ________________ means moderately slow, about walking speed.
10. Adagio means ________________.
11. Accidentals are ___________, ___________, or ________________ not in the key signature.
12. Allegro means ________________ and lively.
13. ________________ means gradually louder.
14. The sign for gradually louder is ________________.
15. The abbreviation for forte is ________________.
16. Da Capo means to go back to the ________________.
17. Dim. is the abbreviation for ________________.
18. Dal Segno means to go back to the ________________.
19. The sign for accent is ________________.
20. A double ________________ ends the music.

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More Musical Signs and Vocabulary

Use the Music Mini-Dictionary to help you fill in the blanks and draw the signs:

Key signature
Largo
Leger lines
Measure repeat sign
Natural
Piano
Presto
Repeat sign
Rest
Sharp
Slur
Solo
Staccato
Staff
Tie
Vivace

Tell what notes to play flat or sharp.
Very slow and dignified.
Short lines added above or below the staff for notes too high or low to fit on.
Repeat the measure.
Cancels a flat or sharp.
Soft.
Very quickly.
Repeat the music between the signs.
A silent beat or beats.
Raises a note one half step.
A curved line connecting different notes. It means to play without tonguing after the first note.
One person plays alone.
Play in a detached style.
Five lines on which music is written.
A curved line connecting two or more notes of the same pitch. Hold for the value of all the notes.
Quick and lively.

1. A detached playing style is called ________________.
2. ___________ is called the ________________.
3. A _______________ is a curved line connecting notes of the same pitch.
4. To slur is to play ________________.
5. A _______________ raises a note one half step.
6. Presto means to play very ________________.
7. This sign (\(\checkmark\)) means to ________________ the measure.
8. The ____________ ____________ tells what notes to play flat or sharp.
9. Largo means to play ________________.
10. Draw a pair of repeat signs: ________________
11. A rest is a ________________ beat.
12. One person playing alone is a ________________.
13. ________________ means to play softly.
14. Short lines added above or below the staff are called ________________ lines.
15. The word meaning quick and lively is ________________.
16. When there is a ________________, you hold the value of all the notes.
17. Draw a sharp sign: ________________
18. A ________________ is a curved line connecting different notes.
19. The abbreviation for piano is ________________.

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Musical Vocabulary

Fill in the blank with the correct definition:

1. 4
2. f
3. D.C.
4. fine
5. solo
6. g
7. piano
8. #
9. slur
10. BEADGCF
11. b
12. :
13. andante
14. f
15. f
16. —
17. %
18. 
19. 
20. 
21. allegro
22. Dal Segno
23. FCGDAEB
24. •
25. —

treble clef
cut off
deut.
the end
half rest
one person plays alone
bass clef
repeat
natural
quarter rest
flat
the order of flats
sharp
loud
soft
moderately slow, about walking speed
the order or sharps
go back to the sign
key signature
double bar
repeat the measure
fast and lively
time signature
whole rest
tie
Repeat Signs

A repeat sign consists of two dots placed before or after a double bar. Music enclosed by these signs is to be repeated.

1. Underline the section that is to be repeated:

\[ \text{Staff image} \]

Sometimes the repeat sign means to go back to the beginning of the music.

2. Underline the section that is to be repeated:

\[ \text{Staff image} \]

When there are first and second endings, play the first ending the first time, repeat the strain, then skip the first ending and play the second ending.

3. Underline with a solid line the music you play the first time. Underline with a dotted line the music you play the second time:

\[ \text{Staff image} \]

4. In the music below, draw repeat dots to show the following:
   a. After measure 3 is played, start the line again;
   b. Measures 6 and 7 are to be repeated;
   c. Draw first and second endings so measure 8 is played the first time through, but not the second, and measure 9 is played only the final time through the line.

\[ \text{Staff image} \]

5. On the staffs below, write the song as it would appear without a first and second ending:

\[ \text{Staff images} \]
Puzzle Page: Signs

Complete the word with the help of the sign:

1. \( \bigcirc \) f ______ t ______
2. \( \checkmark \) m ______ e e ______
3. \( \bigtriangledown \) w l o ______
4. \( \frac{2}{4} \) t ______ s r ______
5. \( \bigcup \) l n ______
6. \( \checkmark \) q r t ______
7. \( \_ \) h r t ______
8. \( \# \) s p ______
9. \( \frac{3}{2} \) d e h f n e ______
10. \( \_ \) w t ______
11. \( \| \) u ______
12. \( \_ \) l a ______
13. \( \frac{4}{4} \) t e c ______
14. \( \_ \) ______ e e ______
15. \( \| \) l ______
16. \( \| \) b c ______
17. \( \| \) t ______
18. b l ______
19. \( \| \) r t s n ______
20. d l b l e ______
21. e t n s ______
22. \( \frac{4}{4} \) y s g ______
23. D.C. p ______
24. \( \| \) s t t ______
25. B E A D G C F the o f f s ______
**Interval:** the distance between two notes

**Half step:** the smallest possible interval

**Flat:** lowers a note a half step

**Sharp:** raises a note a half step

**Natural:** cancels a flat or sharp

**Natural half step:** B-C & E-F

**Enharmonic:** 2 names for the same note

**Chromatic scale:** a scale progressing by half steps

**Whole Step:** two half steps

**Tetrachord:** a four note pattern consisting of whole step, whole step, half step

**Major scale:** two tetrachords joined by a whole step --- W W H W W W H
Flat, Sharp, and Natural

This is a flat sign:  This is a flat sign:  A flat lowers the sound of a note one half step.

Draw a row of flat signs:  

This is a sharp sign:  A sharp raises the sound of a note one half step.

Draw a row of sharp signs:  

This is a natural sign:  A natural cancels out a flat or a sharp.

Draw a row of natural signs:  

1. In the example below, draw your clef sign and name each note:

\[ \text{Example Image} \]

A flat, sharp, or natural that is not in the key signature is called an accidental. The effect of an accidental lasts until the end of a measure, unless it is changed by another accidental.

\[ \text{Example Image} \]

2. In the example below, draw your clef sign and name each note.

\[ \text{Example Image} \]

Optional Activities:
1. Play the examples on your instrument.
2. Find an example in your band music that uses accidentals. Circle the accidentals. Write the names of the notes in the example in pencil, remembering that the effect of the accidental lasts until the end of the measure or until changed by another accidental.

Review:
1. A  lowers the sound of a note one half step.
2. A  raises the sound of a note one half step.
3. A natural  a flat or a sharp.
4. An accidental lasts until  
5. A flat, sharp, or natural not in the key signature is called an  

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Theory Worksheets for Beginning Bands
Whole and Half Steps

In music, a step is the distance from one note on the staff to the next note above or below. Whole and half steps are shown easily on a piano keyboard. A half step is the distance between any key and the key nearest to it (either two white keys that have no black key between them or a white key and the nearest black key). A whole step equals two half steps.

A. Fill in the blanks with either “whole” or “half.”
   1. From C to D is a ____ step.  6. From C to C# is a ____ step.
   2. From E to F is a ____ step   7. From F to F# is a ____ step
   3. From B to C is a ____ step.  8. From B to Bb is a ____ step.
   4. From G to A is a ____ step.  9. From E to F# is a ____ step.
   5. From A to B is a ____ step.  10. From B to C# is a ____ step.

B. a. Draw your clef sign and name the notes.
    b. Draw and name the note that is one half step above the note given.

C. a. Draw your clef sign and name the notes.
    b. Draw and name the note that is one whole step above the note given.

D. a. Draw your clef sign and name the notes.
    b. Draw and name the note that is one whole step above the note given.
Enharmonic Tones

Enharmonic tones are tones that sound the same, but are written differently:

\[ \text{F}^\# \text{ and } G^b \text{ look different, but sound the same.} \]

Enharmonic tones are shown easily on a piano keyboard:

A. Give both names for the following notes:

\[ \text{1. } - \quad \text{2. } - \quad \text{3. } - \quad \text{4. } - \quad \text{5. } - \]

\[ \text{6. } - \quad \text{7. } - \quad \text{8. } - \quad \text{9. } - \quad \text{10. } - \]

\[ \text{11. } - \quad \text{12. } - \quad \text{13. } - \quad \text{14. } - \quad \text{15. } - \]

B. Rewrite the following notes so that they sound the same but look different:

\[ \text{1} \quad \text{2} \quad \text{3} \quad \text{4} \quad \text{5} \]

\[ \text{6} \quad \text{7} \quad \text{8} \quad \text{9} \quad \text{10} \]
The Chromatic Scale

The chromatic scale consists of twelve tones, each a half step apart. The chromatic scale can begin on any note. The chromatic scale of C is given below:

Notice that when the chromatic scale is given in its ascending form (going up), sharps are used to raise each note a half step (except where the interval already is a half step: E to F and B to C). When given in its descending form (going down), flats are used to lower by a half step each note that requires lowering. The flat or sharp sign always comes before the note it is to affect.

A. Fill in the blanks:

1. When the chromatic scale is given in its ascending form, use _____ to raise by a half step each note that needs to be raised.
2. How many tones are in the chromatic scale? _____
3. Which sets of tones do not have a sharpened or flattened note between them? _____ and _____, _____ and _____
4. What note does the chromatic scale begin on? _____
5. Flats are used to lower each tone that requires lowering when the chromatic scale is given in its _______ form.
6. When writing a scale, the flat or sharp sign is supposed to come _________ the note it affects.
7. The distance between any two tones in the chromatic scale is a _________ step.

B. Write chromatic scales on the tones given. Use either bass or treble clef. Give both ascending and descending forms.

1.

2.

3.

4.
Major Scales

A scale is a series of tones upon which music is built. The two scales used most often today are the major and minor scales. There are eight notes in the major scale. These eight notes make up an octave.

A. The pattern of whole and half steps used to build a scale is what gives it its unique sound. To find out what the pattern is, figure out the steps between the notes of the C scale, which has no sharps or flats:

1. C to D is a ___ step. 5. G to A is a ___ step.
2. D to E is a ___ step. 6. A to B is a ___ step.
3. E to F is a ___ step. 7. B to C is a ___ step.
4. F to G is a ___ step.

B. Using the abbreviations "W" for "Whole" and "½" for "half," write the whole and half steps under the scales on the staff:

C. Using the patterns given below, write major scales in the keys of G, D, and B. Put in accidentals where needed to make the correct patterns of whole and half steps. Do both bass and treble clef.

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