

Simple and Compound Time

Name _____

Form _____

A **TIME SIGNATURE** shows the number of beats in a bar. A time signature is two numbers placed one above the other at the beginning of a piece of music. The **TOP NUMBER** tells us how many beats there are in each bar; the **BOTTOM NUMBER** tells us what sort of beat to count. A piece with crotchet beats has 4 on the bottom line of its time signature. Minim beats have 2 on the bottom. Quaver beats have 8 on the bottom.

ACTIVITY 1

Write out the meanings of the following time signatures in full. The first one has been done for you.

Four crotchets beats in a bar			

In **SIMPLE TIME**, each beat is divisible into **HALVES**. In **COMPOUND TIME**, each beat (you can see that all the sets of three quavers below equal a dotted crotchet) divides into **THIRDS**. It is this dividing of the beat into three which gives music written in compound time a dancing rhythm – lilting if the speed is moderate or slow and skipping if the music moves swiftly.

<p>Simple duple time</p>	<p>Compound duple time</p>
<p>Simple triple time</p>	<p>Compound triple time</p>
<p>Simple quadruple time</p>	<p>Compound quadruple time</p>

Group pulses into sets of three

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There are two beats in each bar.

ACTIVITY 2

Look back at the time signatures given in activity 1. Add them to the following table depending on whether they are **SIMPLE TIME** signatures or **COMPOUND TIME** signatures.

SIMPLE TIME SIGNATURES	COMPOUND TIME SIGNATURES

ACTIVITY 3

1. 

Add one rest.

2. 

Add two notes grouped together.

3. 

Make this a whole bar of silence.

4. 

Add two notes.

5. 

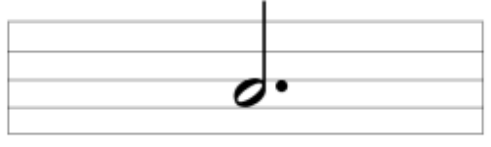
Use just one note and one rest.

6. 

Add a time signature.

7. 

Add a dot.

8. 

Add a time signature.

9. 

Add rests.

10. 

Add four notes.

11. 

Complete the time signature.

12. 

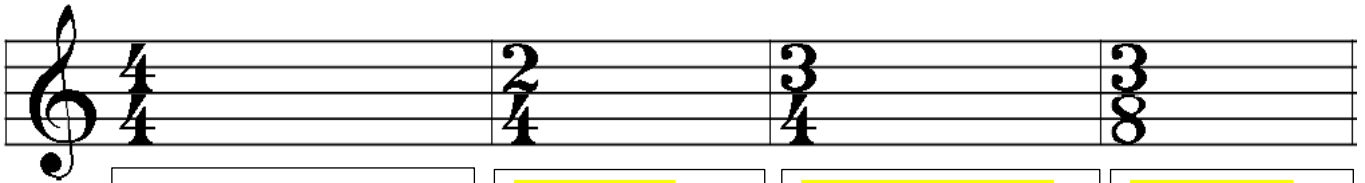
Join these notes in the correct way..

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ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 1

Write out the meanings of the following time signatures in full. The first one has been done for you.



Four crotchets beats in a bar

Two crotchet beats in a bar

Three crotchet beats in a bar

Three quaver beats in a bar



Two minim beats in a bar

Six quaver beats in a bar

Nine quaver beats in a bar

Twelve quaver beats in a bar

ACTIVITY 2

Look back at the time signatures given in activity 1. Add them to the following table depending on whether they are **SIMPLE TIME** signatures or **COMPOUND TIME** signatures.

SIMPLE TIME SIGNATURES					COMPOUND TIME SIGNATURES		
4	3	2	2	3	6	9	12
4	4	4	4	8	8	8	8

ACTIVITY 3

1. Add one rest.
2. Add two notes grouped together.
3. Make this a whole bar of silence.
4. Add two notes.
5. Use just one note and one rest.
6. Add a time signature.
7. Add a dot.
8. Add a time signature.
9. Add rests.
10. Add four notes.
11. Complete the time signature.
12. Join these notes in the correct way..

