Name: _____ Date: _____

Keeping the Beat

Circle group

Listen to a song you like. Tap your foot. You are tapping the beat. The beat is the steady pulse in music. It is like a ticking clock. It stays the same from start to end.

Rhythm is not the same. Rhythm is the pattern of long and short sounds. It goes with the beat. Some notes last one beat. Some last two beats or more. Some are quick and share one beat. Clap the words of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." You are clapping its rhythm.

Tempo is how fast or slow the beat is. A lullaby has a slow tempo. It feels calm. A marching band has a quick tempo. You feel like moving.

Drummers keep the beat for a band. A drummer may speed up or slow down by accident. Then the others can not stay together. So musicians practice a steady beat.

Questions

1. What is the beat in music?

_____

_____

2. How is rhythm not the same as the beat?

_____

_____

3. What is tempo?

_____

_____

4. Why does a lullaby feel calm?

_____

_____

5. Why can the others not stay together if the drummer speeds up?

_____

_____

6. Why would a marching band play at a quick tempo?

_____

_____

Words to know

beat: the steady pulse in music
rhythm: a pattern of long and short sounds in music
tempo: how fast or slow the music goes
lullaby: a soft, slow song for helping a baby sleep
drummers: people who play drums

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Keeping the Beat

Triangle group

Listen to a song you like and tap your foot. You are tapping the beat. The beat is the steady pulse in music, like the ticking of a clock. It stays the same from the start of a song to the end.

Rhythm is different. Rhythm is the pattern of long and short sounds that goes along with the beat. Some notes last for one beat. Some last for two beats or more. Others are quick and share a single beat. When you clap the words of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," you are clapping its rhythm.

Tempo is how fast or slow the beat goes. A lullaby has a slow tempo, so it feels calm. A marching band plays at a quick tempo, so you feel like moving.

Drummers keep the beat for a band. If a drummer speeds up or slows down by accident, the other players have a hard time staying together. That is why musicians practice with a steady beat.

Questions

1. What is the beat in music?

_____

_____

2. How is rhythm different from the beat?

_____

_____

3. What is tempo?

_____

_____

4. Why does a lullaby feel calm?

_____

_____

5. Why do the other players have a hard time if the drummer speeds up by accident?

_____

_____

6. Why might a marching band play at a quick tempo?

_____

_____

Words to know

beat: the steady pulse in music
rhythm: a pattern of long and short sounds in music
tempo: how fast or slow the music goes
lullaby: a soft, slow song for helping a baby sleep
drummers: people who play drums

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Keeping the Beat

Square group

Listen to a song you enjoy and tap your foot along with it, and you are tapping the beat. The beat is the steady pulse that runs through music, much like the ticking of a clock, and it stays the same from the opening of a song to its end.

Rhythm is something different. Rhythm is the pattern of long and short sounds that accompanies the beat. Certain notes last for one beat, others last for two beats or more, and still others are quick enough to share a single beat. When you clap the words of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," you are clapping its rhythm.

Tempo describes how fast or slow the beat moves. A lullaby has a slow tempo, which makes it feel calm, while a marching band plays at a quick tempo that makes you want to move.

Drummers keep the beat for a band. If a drummer accidentally speeds up or slows down, the other players struggle to stay together, which is why musicians practice with a steady beat.

Questions

1. What is the beat in music?

_____

_____

2. How does rhythm differ from the beat?

_____

_____

3. What does tempo describe?

_____

_____

4. What makes a lullaby feel calm?

_____

_____

5. Why do the other players struggle if the drummer speeds up by accident?

_____

_____

6. Why might a marching band choose a quick tempo?

_____

_____

Words to know

beat: the steady pulse in music
rhythm: a pattern of long and short sounds in music
tempo: how fast or slow the music goes
lullaby: a soft, slow song for helping a baby sleep
drummers: people who play drums

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Keeping the Beat

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Keeping the Beat

Easier · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. The steady pulse, like a ticking clock.
2. Rhythm is the pattern of long and short sounds.
3. How fast or slow the beat is.
4. It has a slow tempo.
5. The drummer keeps the beat, so they lose their steady guide.
6. It makes you feel like moving.

Triangle: Keeping the Beat

This passage · 163 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. The steady pulse, like the ticking of a clock.
2. Rhythm is the pattern of long and short sounds that goes along with the beat.
3. How fast or slow the beat goes.
4. It has a slow tempo.
5. The drummer keeps the beat, so the players lose their steady guide and cannot stay together.
6. A quick tempo makes people feel like moving, which suits marching.

Square: Keeping the Beat

Harder · 173 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. The steady pulse that runs through a song, like the ticking of a clock.
2. Rhythm is the pattern of long and short sounds that accompanies the beat.
3. How fast or slow the beat moves.
4. Its slow tempo.
5. The drummer keeps the beat, so the players lose the steady guide they rely on.
6. A quick tempo makes people want to move, which suits marching.