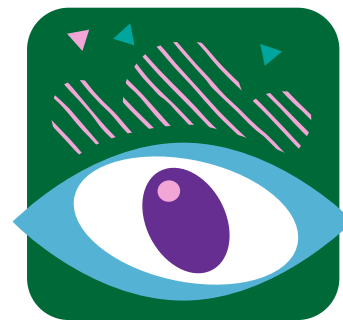


Teacher Talk

What do all these funny dots and lines mean?



This script is intended to be used by teachers alongside the **Musical Note Flashcards** or the **Know Your Notes Teaching Slides**. It is a simple first introduction to the different musical notes that pupils will be working with throughout this project.

Did you know that musicians have a special superpower? As well as being able to make the beautiful sounds we call music, they can read a special language. But this language doesn't use letters and words, like we use in English... this special language is made up of lots of dots and lines we call **musical notes**.

So what do all these funny dots and lines mean? Let's start at the very beginning and learn the first parts of this special musical language.

Here is our first dot. [Flashcard 1 or teaching slide 3]

This is a musical note called a **whole note**. In the UK we often call it a semibreve. It looks like a circle that has been squashed a little bit and it is hollow – with no colour inside it.

Our next musical note is called a **minim**. [Flashcard 2 or teaching slide 5]

It looks a bit like the **whole note** but this time it has been given a tall back. We call this a **stem**.

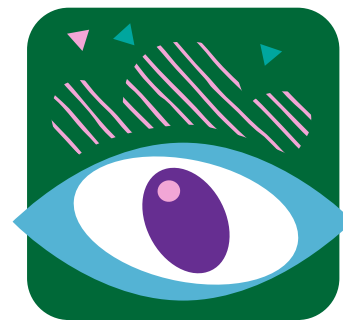
Our next musical note is called a **crotchet**. [Flashcard 3 or teaching slide 7]

It looks a bit like a **minim** with a stem, but what is different now?

Do you notice, instead of being hollow like the other notes, a **crotchet** is coloured in.

Teacher Talk

What do all these funny dots and lines mean?



The last note we are learning about today is called a **quaver**. [Flashcard 4 or teaching slide 9]

It looks like a **crotchet** but it has something extra. Do you see the little squiggle coming out of the stem? It looks a bit like a leaf on a plant, but in music we call it a **flag**.

Sometimes the **quavers** join hands with a partner, then they look like this. [Flashcard 5 or teaching slide 11]

We call these **double quavers**.

The notes don't just sit anywhere they like. They sit on special horizontal lines we call **staves** and are separated by special vertical lines we call **bar lines**.



The different notes mean different things for the musicians... but we'll learn about that another day. For now, let's make sure we remember the names of the different notes.

Today we learned about **whole notes**, **minims**, **crotchets** and **quavers** and we learned that they sit on special lines called **staves** and are separated by lines we call **bar lines**.

Well done everyone, now you know what some of those funny dots and lines mean!