

## Musithink 102 Frère Jacques Working out the pitch of the first four notes

### Learn how to visualise a short pattern precisely and the concept of step and jump

You just need a pen or pencil.

Like Musithink 101 you may find this ridiculously simple. Please don't be offended and skip it. It's deliberately as basic as it can be so as not to leave anyone behind, and even people who have done a lot of music can make an error. The answer is at the top of Musithink 103. Try to avoid looking at it until you have written down your solution. If your version is different, take some time thinking again to make sure you can hear the notes and how they relate to each other.

**1.** Sing the beginning of "Frère Jacques" out loud or in your head. Just the bit that goes "*Frère Jacques*". Notice that there is one note for each syllable: "*Frè-re Jac-ques*"

The rest of this sheet is going to focus on visualising in your head the pattern the precise pattern those 4 notes make.

**2.** In your mind's eye "see" a blob to represent the first note, the one for "*Frè*".

Think about the note for the next syllable - "*re*". Where are you going to put that blob?

Most people automatically put it to the right of the first blob – we're so used to going from left to right when we read and write, and music works the same way.

But are you going to put it directly to the right, higher or lower? That depends on how you think the second note relates to the first. Is it the same pitch, higher or lower?

And if it is higher or lower, is it a lot higher or lower, or is it quite close to the first note?

**3.** Now think about the blob for the third note "*Jac*".

It'll go to the right of the second one – but is it the same, higher or lower?

And if it is higher or lower, is it a lot higher or lower, or close to the one before?

**4.** Now the fourth note. This is the interesting one. It is the same as one of the preceding notes – but which one? You may be completely sure, and right straight away. Don't worry if you are not – it's the thinking about it that is useful.

If you are finding it tricky or you aren't sure, try this:

You've got three notes so far. Note 4 is the same as one of those 3.

Sing "*Frè - re Jac*" and then try each of your 3 notes in turn to find out which one it is.

**5.** Draw your blob pattern here:

Make sure you draw the last blob at the same height as the note it is the same as.

*Frè - re Jac - ques*

**6.** The answer is on the next sheet: Frère Jacques Musithink 03. If your version is different, take time working out where you have gone wrong.

**7.** The first three notes, for "*Frè - re Jac*" go up by step. If you were playing them on a keyboard, you would play 3 adjacent notes, from left to right. They make the first three notes of a scale – a pattern of notes going up by step.

**8.** The 4<sup>th</sup> note, for "*ques*" is the same pitch as the 1<sup>st</sup> one. The tune goes up by step for 3 notes, then jumps back down again.