

Musithink 105 Frère Jacques Measuring the Notes

Before tackling this activity you need to be able to do Challenge 3 on the sheet Musiskill 101.

You'll learn how to measure note lengths using the beat, and that it is very common to have rhythms which have a 1:2:4 length relationship.

You'll need a pen or pencil

1. Count the beats (1 2 3 4) while you clap the rhythm of the song. (This is the Musiskill 101 challenge). Do it again, and keep a tally as you go of how many times you have to go 1 2 3 4

2. You have to do it 8 times. Think about the tune being sorted into 8 boxes, each with 4 beats.

<i>Frè - re Jac - ques</i>	<i>Frè - re Jac - ques</i>	<i>Dor - mez vous</i>	<i>Dor - mez vous</i>
<i>Son-nez les ma-ti-nes</i>	<i>Son-nez les ma-ti-nes</i>	<i>Ding dang dong</i>	<i>Ding dang dong</i>

Before you carry on, check you understand this idea,

3. Count and clap the first two boxes. The counts and claps coincide. Each note in the tune lasts for a beat. You could represent it visually like this:

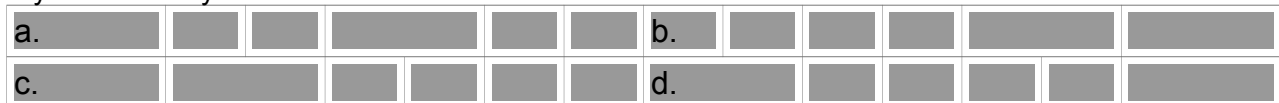


Now count and clap boxes 3 and 4. There aren't so many syllables this time. One syllable (note) in each box takes up two beats. Which one? Shade in the boxes to represent the rhythm.



4. When we clap the beat, we make a short sound. That can give people the idea that a beat is a short thing that comes round on a regular basis. That's not helpful for making progress understanding music. You need to get your head round the idea that a beat lasts from that moment of a clap up to the time when the next clap happened. If you do 60 claps a minute, each beat lasts a second. A beat is like a container – it might be filled up with just one note, or it might have 2 notes in it, or 3, 4 or more.

When you work out the rhythm for boxes 5 and 6, you need to be aware of that. You've got some notes that are twice as fast as the speed of the beat. Here are 4 diagrams. Which shows the rhythm correctly?



5. Count and clap the last two boxes. They have the same rhythm as one of the other pairs of boxes. Which one?

6. In the whole tune you've got three different lengths of notes. From longest to shortest they are double beat length, beat length, and half beat length. It's very common in music to have rhythms in this 1:2:4 relationship.

Answers: 3. Beats 1 and 2 are separate notes, beats 3 and 4 are one long note 4. version b is correct
5. The last two boxes have the same rhythm as boxes 3 and 4.