

Music Theory

Escape Room

by

*Gypsy
Gameschooler*

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OVERVIEW

Make your kids' Music Unit Study unforgettable with our Music Theory Escape Room! Featuring 8 puzzle challenges that reveal a final secret code, this fun and engaging printable game will be a huge hit for kids ages 8 and up. Whether you're planning a party for your music class, a co-op game day, a challenge for your orchestra, or just need some rainy-day activities for family game night, this music theory game is perfect for you.

Looking for an escape room experience at home without all the fuss? Look no further! Our printable escape room is perfect for you. With no complicated shapes to cut out, and no folding or taping required, our low-prep escape room allows you to experience the thrill of the escape room right away.

Our escape room game is designed to be easy to set up and play, with no props or complicated instructions required. Kids can complete the puzzles individually or in small groups, making it a great activity for classrooms, youth groups, or team-building exercises. With our escape room kit, you'll have everything you need to create an exciting adventure for your little ones from the comfort of your own home.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE INSTANT DOWNLOAD?

PDF game guide (8.5 x 11)

8 puzzle challenges

Recording sheet

Set up instructions

Hint cards

Frequently asked questions

Answers

Gameplay: 1-3 hours

Ages: 8+

Number of players: As many as you want!

DIRECTIONS



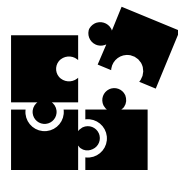
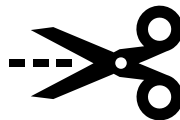
You will need to print page 11 for EVERY person or team playing the game. This is the answer recording sheet for the individual puzzles.

Print pages 7-10 for each player, group, or team. Kids WILL need to write on the puzzles in order to determine their answers. Save paper by partnering kids up. Some of the puzzles cannot be done visually, so each kid or team will need their own “set” printed.



Preview the puzzles and answers just in case you need to offer help or guidance. The kids MIGHT struggle the first time they see the puzzles...that’s OK; that’s the goal. It is, after all, an escape room! Let them think it out for a bit before you help them.

Once all 8 puzzles and answer recording sheets have been printed, read the “mission” out loud on page 6 and review the directions. Next, let the fun begin! Let kids know that they can complete the puzzles in **ANY order**. Just make sure they record their answers in the correct area.



PRINTING THE GAME

Make sure you **download the file to your computer FIRST**, then **print**. Sometimes your computer opens the PDF in the default web browser (which makes black boxes appear around images when you print). It happens when trying to print from the preview URL when it opens in a new tab. Make sure you are using the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader (FREE) – rather than a preview application on Macs or web browsers. Grab Adobe here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

F.A.Q.

How long does this activity take to complete?

It really depends on a lot of things. Estimated completion time is 1-3 hours but it's based on the kids' puzzle skills, group size, and age. We recommend ages 8+.

How many kids can play at once?

Kids can play individually, with friends or siblings, or in large groups. There really is no limit to the number of players.

What if the kids get stuck on one of the puzzles?

First off, let them think for a bit! This is where critical thinking skills come in. If they get stuck, you can give them a small hint to guide them. It is advised that you preview the puzzles first, so you understand how to complete them.

Where do kids start?

Kids can start on any puzzles and complete the puzzles in ANY order!

How do you know if their answers are correct?

There is an answer key provided in the PDF.

How do I set up the activity?

Just print, cut in half, and play! Everything you need is included in your download. You don't need locks, envelopes, or special equipment. You can hang or hide the puzzles or just spread them out on the kitchen table.

Do I have to print out the game materials for every kid?

Yes and no. Each player or "team" will need their own "set" of puzzles so that they can write on the pages.

DIRECTIONS

1. WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

1. TNECAC
2. IHEHTG
3. ODELC
4. GAADOI
5. DNNTEAA

Accelerando	Crescendo
Accidental	Staccato

There are 8 puzzles to solve in order to determine the 4-digit code to escape. The bottom of each puzzle will give you a “secret word” based on your puzzle answers. Write the secret word on your answer sheet for each puzzle.

Once all secret words have been recorded on your answer sheet, use the decoder to determine what NUMBER each letter is represented by based on the gray-shaded boxes. The final 4-digit code will be FOUR numbers in the order in which they appear on your answer sheet.

SECRET MISSION

It all starts with a single note.

You're sitting at your piano, practicing scales just like your teacher told you to. Your fingers move across the keys—C, D, E, F, G—but something feels ... off. The notes don't sound right. They don't just echo in your room—they seem to echo everywhere.

Then, on the last note, the world shifts.

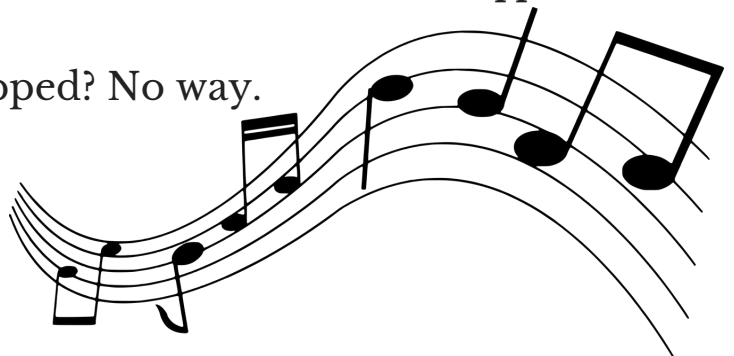
Your living room vanishes. The piano, the lamp by your side, the window with the afternoon sun—all gone. Instead, you find yourself standing in a dimly lit hallway that hums with music. The walls stretch high, made of shimmering golden sheet music, and the air itself vibrates like a plucked violin string.

You turn in circles, trying to figure out where you are, but there's no way back. Only forward.

Then a voice booms through the hall, deep and echoing: *"Welcome, musician. The only way out is through. Each door is a puzzle, and only those who understand music may pass. Solve them all, or remain trapped in the Melody Maze forever!"*

Your breath catches. A maze? Trapped? No way. There has to be a way out.

You step toward the first door.



1

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

1. TNECAC

2. IHEHTG

3. ODELC

4. GAADOI

5. DNNTEAA



Accelerando

Crescendo

Accidental

Staccato

2

POLYBIUS SQUARE

Use the numbers to determine what letter each combination represents.

If the box is blank, determine what letter is missing. HINT:  then 

You first have to use the grid on the left to decipher the clues below. You will end up with one answer from the words at the bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	E	C	D		A
2	F	I	G	J/K	
3	P	O		L	M
4		Q	T	S	U
5	X		V	Z	Y

The answer 2 2, 4 4 3 3, 2 3, 3 4 5 1
3 1, 5 5, 3 3, 5 1, 5 3, 2 2, 2 1.

Eliminate 4 4, 4 3, 2 3, 2 5
3 4, 1 1, 5 3, 1 3, 2 3, 4 4.

The answer 2 1, 2 3, 3 3, 3 4, 5 1, 2 2, 3 3, 4 4
5 1 3 2.



Forte

Allegro

Rubato

Tenuto

Piano

Grave

ATBASH ALPHABET

A=Z	D=W	G=T	J=Q	M=N	P=K	S=H	V=E	Y=B
B=Y	E=V	H=S	K=P	N=M	Q=J	T=G	W=D	Z=A
C=X	F=U	I=R	L=O	O=L	R=I	U=F	X=C	

Gsv zmhdvi yvtrmh drgs zm “H.”

Fine

REBUS PUZZLE



A stylized illustration of a brown bull with small, curved horns, facing left. The bull is depicted in a simple, cartoonish style with a solid brown body and a small red dot for an eye.



-FRI

Grandioso



5

POLYBIUS SQUARE

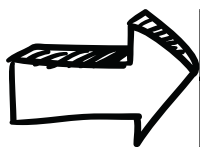
Use the numbers to determine what letter each combination represents. If the box is blank, determine what letter is missing. HINT:  then 
You first have to use the grid on the left to decipher the clues below. You will end up with one answer from the words at the bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5
1		A	E	D	B
2	G	J/K	F	I	
3	P		M	L	N
4	S	U		T	Q
5	V	X	Z		Y

Eliminate answers 4 5, 4 2, 4 4, 5 2
3 3, 2 3, 3 4, 3 1 4 4, 5 2, 2 1, 5 3
2 3, 5 3, 3 1 4 5, 2 3, 3 4, 4 1.

The answer 4 2, 1 4 5 3, 2 3, 4 4 2 1
4 4, 5 5, 1 3, 3 1 2 3, 3 2 1 4, 1 1, 2 1, 4 3, 3 1

The answer 5 2, 2 1, 1 4 3 3, 2 3, 3 4, 3 1
4 4, 5 2, 2 1, 5 3 3 2, 2 3, 2 4, 3 4
4 3, 3 1, 4 4, 4 4, 3 1, 3 4, 1 4.



Key	Half Step	Interval
Step	Major	Flat

6

ATBASH ALPHABET

Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

A=Z	D=W	G=T	J=Q	M=N	P=K	S=H	V=E	Y=B
B=Y	E=V	H=S	K=P	N=M	Q=J	T=G	W=D	Z=A
C=X	F=U	I=R	L=O	O=L	R=I	U=F	X=C	

Gsv zmhdvi kvigzrmh gl isbgsn.

Gsv zmhdvi wlvh mlg xlmgzrm zm S.

Vornrmzgv dliwh drgs ovhh gszm urev ovggvih.



Beat	Clef	Quarter
Note	Rhythm	Rest

7

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

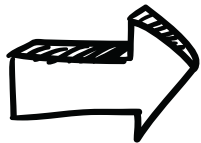
1. RELETB

2. ELSAC

3. OGALR

4. FATFS

5. RPHSA



8

REBUS PUZZLES

Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.

S+  -ries +  -O

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 N=D  R=N +  -E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 X=C +  W=T

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 U=E + Z +  -NT

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



SECRET WORD RECORDER



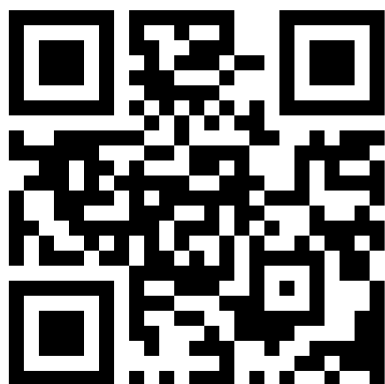
Place your final answers to each puzzle in the boxes below. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the 4-digit combination. The 4-digit combination will be revealed in the same order in which they appear on your answer grid.

1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											

Eliminate all odd numbers.

Eliminate the first and last number.

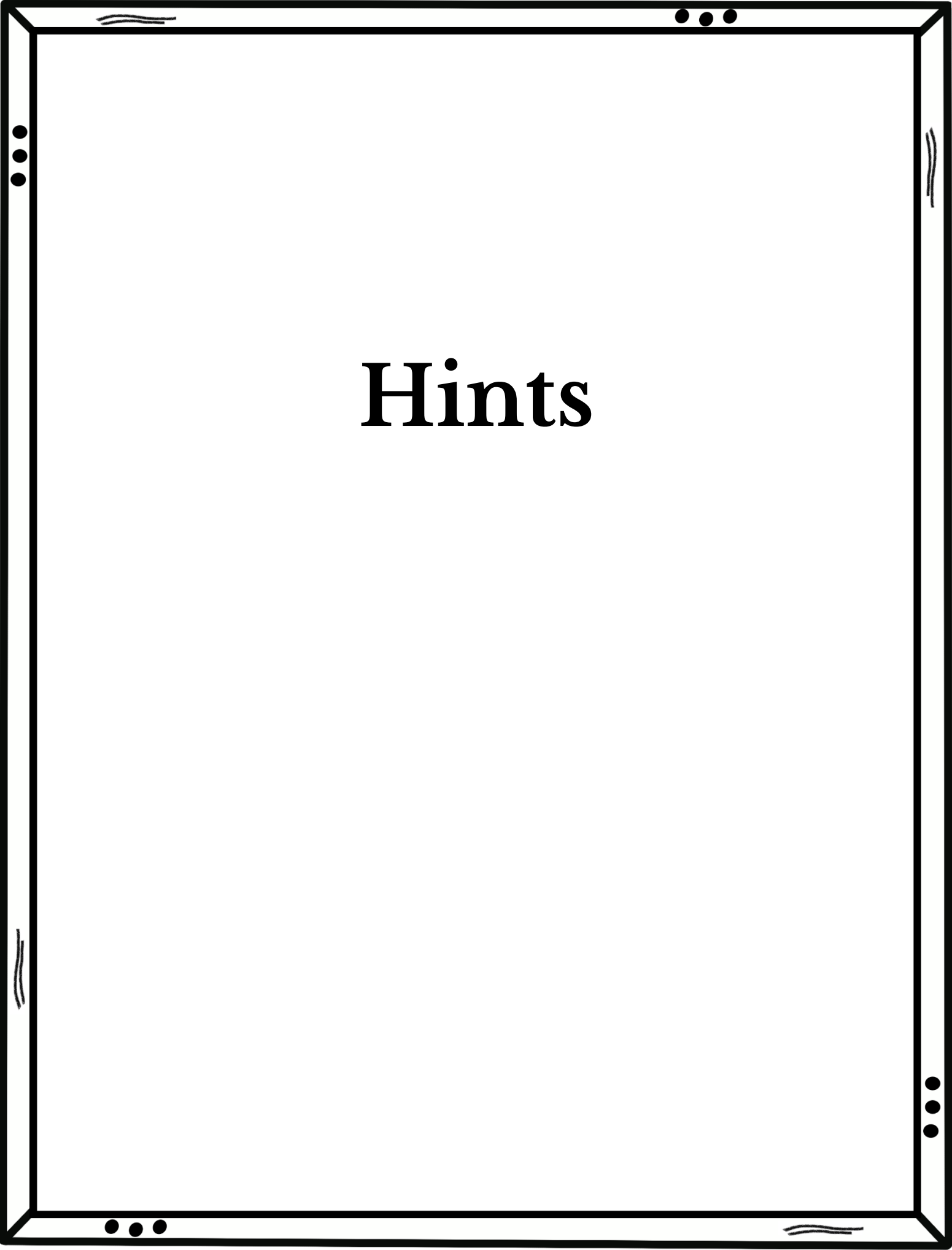
Scan the QR code to check
your answer!



A=4	J=4	S=4
B=6	K=6	T=6
C=3	L=3	U=3
D=1	M=1	V=1
E=2	N=2	W=2
F=9	O=9	X=9
G=7	P=7	Y=7
H=5	Q=5	Z=5
I=8	R=8	

4-DIGIT CODE





The image features a large rectangular frame with a thick black border. At each of the four corners, there are three small black dots arranged in a triangular pattern. Additionally, at the midpoint of each side, there are two short, parallel horizontal lines. The word "Hints" is centered within the frame in a large, bold, serif font.

Hints

REBUS

To solve a rebus, make sure to look at the word placement, size, and quantity. First, determine what the picture is. Then, follow the letter prompts eliminating, adding or replacing letters. The secret word will be one of the words at the bottom of the puzzle.



D=L

Step 1: Determine the picture. In this case it is a dove.

Step 2: Follow the letter prompts. This rebus tells us to replace the letter “D” with the letter “L”. To solve, simply put the new letters together. The answer to this rebus is LOVE.

POLYBIUS

Use the numbers to determine what letter each number combination represents. Notice the numbers are in pairs.

HINT: Go RIGHT first, then DOWN

Find where the first and second number intersect on the grid to determine the letter.

If a letter is missing on the grid, use the alphabet to determine the missing letter. Each row has 5 consecutive letters in a random order.

Example: 1 3
Go right 1 and down 3

Example: 2 4
Go right 2 and down 4

ATBASH

This is a letter replacement cipher. Use the decoder to determine what letter each given letter represents. Hint: Atbash is simply the alphabet backward. The answer will be the ONE remaining word found in the list at the bottom.

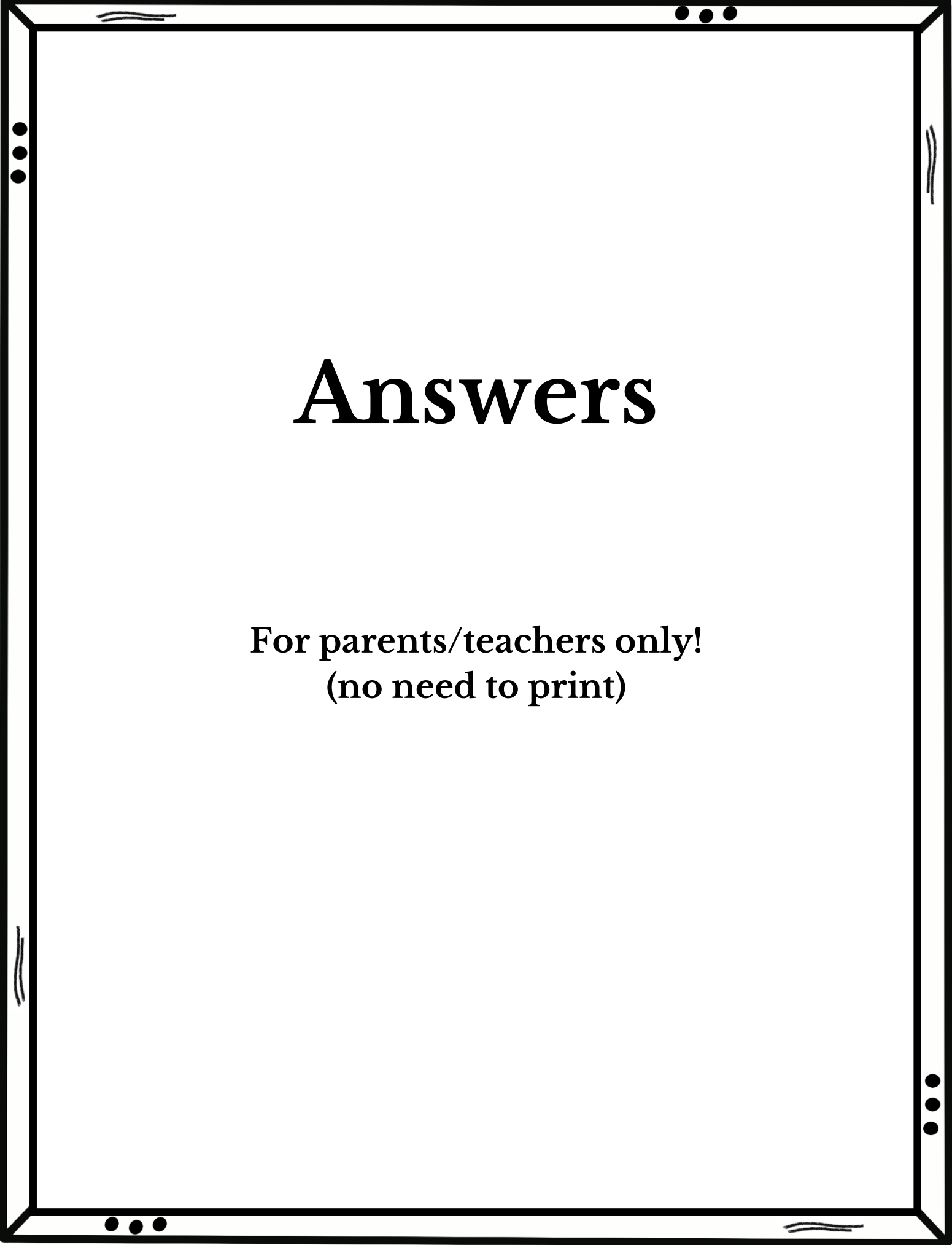
A=Z

B=Y

C=X

SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters to determine the missing word. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the letters of the secret word. Unscramble the letters to find the secret word.



Answers

For parents/teachers only!
(no need to print)

1

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

1. TNECAC

2. IHEHTG

3. ODELC

4. GAADOI

5. DNNTEAA

A	C	C	E	N	T		
E	I	G	H	T	H		
D	O	L	C	E			
A	D	A	G	I	O		
A	N	D	A	N	T	E	



Accelerando

Crescendo

Accidental

Staccato

2

POLYBIUS SQUARE

Use the numbers to determine what letter each combination represents.

If the box is blank, determine what letter is missing. HINT:  then 

You first have to use the grid on the left to decipher the clues below. You will end up with one answer from the words at the bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	E	C	D	B	A
2	F	I	G	J/K	H
3	P	O	N	L	M
4	R	Q	T	S	U
5	X	W	V	Z	Y

The answer is not a dynamic.

Eliminate slow tempos

The answer contains a G.



Forte

Allegro

Rubato

Tenuto

Piano

Grave

3

ATBASH ALPHABET

Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

A=Z	D=W	G=T	J=Q	M=N	P=K	S=H	V=E	Y=B
B=Y	E=V	H=S	K=P	N=M	Q=J	T=G	W=D	Z=A
C=X	F=U	I=R	L=O	O=L	R=I	U=F	X=C	

The answer indicates how the music is played.

The answer begins with an "S."

The answer means "same."



Simile	Marcato	Sempre
Divisi	Solo	Fine

4

REBUS PUZZLE



Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.

M +  X=D+E  +O

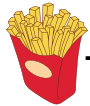
M O D E R A T O

 -AY+E+  -RE

P R E S T O

V+  T=I+ 

V I V A C E

M+  R=S+  P=R+  -FRI

M E A S U R E S



Glissando	Espressivo
Pianissimo	Grandioso

5

POLYBIUS SQUARE

Use the numbers to determine what letter each combination represents. If the box is blank, determine what letter is missing. HINT:  then 
You first have to use the grid on the left to decipher the clues below. You will end up with one answer from the words at the bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	C	A	E	D	B
2	G	J/K	F	I	H
3	P	O	M	L	N
4	S	U	R	T	Q
5	V	X	Z	W	Y

Eliminate answers with more than one word.

The answer is not a type of scale

The answer has more than four letters.



Key	Half Step	Interval
Step	Major	Flat

6

ATBASH ALPHABET

Use the decoder below to determine the clues.

A=Z	D=W	G=T	J=Q	M=N	P=K	S=H	V=E	Y=B
B=Y	E=V	H=S	K=P	N=M	Q=J	T=G	W=D	Z=A
C=X	F=U	I=R	L=O	O=L	R=I	U=F	X=C	

The answer pertains to rhythm.

The answer does not contain an H.

Eliminate words with less than five letters.



Beat	Clef	Quarter
Note	Rhythm	Rest

7

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters below. Spell the word correctly in the boxes to the right. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the secret word.

1. RELETB

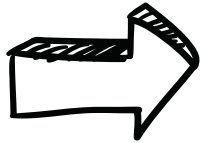
2. ELSAC

3. OGALR

4. FATFS

5. RPHSA

T	R	E	B	L	E		
S	C	A	L	E			
L	A	R	G	O			
S	T	A	F	F			
S	H	A	R	P			



Prestissimo

Larghetto

Fortissimo

Allegretto

8

REBUS PUZZLES

Use the images to determine the word. Spell them correctly in the boxes below. Then, unscramble the letters in the gray-shaded boxes.

S+  -ries +  -O

S C H E R Z O

 N=D  R=N +  -E

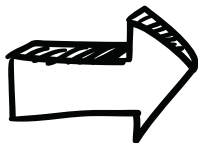
D Y N A M I C

 X=C +  W=T

O C T A V E

 U=E + Z +  -NT

S E N Z A



Scherzando

Diminuendo

Common Time

Pizzicato

SECRET WORD RECORDER



Place your final answers to each puzzle in the boxes below. Then, use the gray-shaded boxes to reveal the 4-digit combination. The 4-digit combination will be revealed in the same order in which they appear on your answer grid.

1	A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T	A	L	
2	A	L	L	E	G	R	O				
3	S	I	M	I	L	E					
4	E	S	P	R	E	S	S	I	V	O	
5	I	N	T	E	R	V	A	L			
6	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R				
7	A	L	L	E	G	R	E	T	T	O	
8	S	C	H	E	R	Z	A	N	D	O	

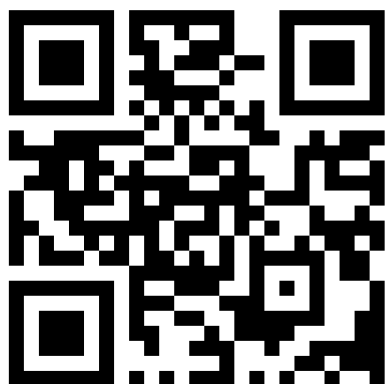
8 4 2 7 8 3 6 4

A=4 J=4 S=4
 B=6 K=6 T=6
 C=3 L=3 U=3
 D=1 M=1 V=1
 E=2 N=2 W=2
 F=9 O=9 X=9
 G=7 P=7 Y=7
 H=5 Q=5 Z=5
 I=8 R=8

Eliminate all odd numbers.

Eliminate the first and last number.

Scan the QR code to check
your answer!



4-DIGIT CODE

4 2 8 6

Did you enjoy this scavenger hunt? Make sure you check out my **Music Unit Study** for even more fun! Use code **ESCAPEROOM** for \$5 off.

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- History Overview
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- Fractions
- Instrument Families
- The Piano
- Suggested Activities
- Games
- Make Your Own Musical Instruments
- Writing Assignments
- Subjects Covered
- Grading Rubrics

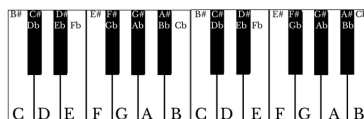
Thank you!

The Piano



The piano is both a percussion and a string instrument. When you press a key on a non-digital piano, it causes a hammer to hit the corresponding string, making the sound. However, they are one of the most common instruments and probably the easiest to discuss notes, intervals, sharps, and flats with.

Even musicians who don't play piano can generally find a few notes or even scales on the piano. An electric piano always stays in tune so is useful to check your intonation with.



Our piano here has 2 octaves. As we discussed before, if you are in the key of C Maior (no sharps or flats), you will only use the white keys. Notes on the left

Subjects Covered

Throughout this unit study, your student has covered:

Math: Fractions, music theory
Science: Physics, ecology, making their own instruments
Reading: Music history, styles of music, music theory
Writing: Suggested activities, Writing Assignments
History: Music history, styles of music
Languages: Italian
Geography: Suggested activities, Deep dive into geography
Art: Combining music and art, making their own instruments
P.E.: Combining music and art

Western Music

*History, Theory, Styles, Listening,
Exploration, and More!*

Gypsy Gameschooler

Notes

We use the first 7 letters of the alphabet to name the notes on the staff: A, B, C, D, E, F, G. When we go up an octave, we start again with A.

Music Theory, pg 2

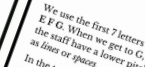
Notes

We use the first 7 letters of the alphabet to create the musical alphabet: A B C D E F G. When we get to G, we just start over again with A. Notes farther down the staff have a lower pitch than notes higher up the staff. Notes are described as *lines* or *spaces*.

In the treble clef, the lines are E G B D F and spaces are A C E. There are many mnemonics to help you remember; my usual is "Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge".

In bass clef, the lines are G B D F and spaces are A C E. The mnemonics I use are "Good Boys Deserve Fudge Always" and "ACE-G". However, the notes on bass clef are lower than treble clef, by about 2 octaves (we'll cover those in a bit).

Music Theory, pg 2



y notice where the G is in treble clef and the F in bass clef. These notes
 how these clefs get their names of G-clef and F-clef, respectively.

s can also be written on a double, or grand staff. This is very common in
 music. A B-octave C major scale (remember, this is the one all white
 notes) did you notice. Listen to this video while following along with the
 scale. Did you notice how the notes further down the staff are lower
 e higher up on the staff? Or how much lower the bass clef notes were
 reble clef notes?

middle C? Middle C is the 8th and the 36th note in the following
 e how it was written on the treble clef staff and the bass clef staff.

e how it was written on the way down? Both notes are the same

Science of Music

Pitch refers to how high or low the notes are. It covers rhythm later, when we cover vibrations. Slower vibrations produce lower notes. On stringed instruments, longer strings produce lower notes. In woodwinds, a longer tube produces a lower note.

Tone refers to the quality of the sound and the size and shape of the resonator.

Dynamics refer to the loudness of the sound.

Sound is a type of wave. Not quite unit on Khan Academy's has got it right. There's a fantastic video on music:

Frac

Fractions are super cool and fun, and fractions in terms of rhythms!

Let's set 1 measure in common (4/4), whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes.

However, how much of a measure or a dotted eighth note? Cut out this page. If it helps you, you can use it. If it helps you, you can use it. If it helps you, you can use it. (Tip: If you laminated it, you can use it with other worksheets.)

How many of each note fit in _____?

How many of each note fit in _____?

How many of each note fit in _____?

Instrument Families

Begin this lesson by listening to Britten's *Orchestra*. I have a copy on CD that is **a fantastic YouTube video** that label able to see many orchestral instruments

Britten begins with the winds. The 9 flutes, a prominent member, are all familiar with the standard C flute, but higher and lower? Piccolos are also ones), but there are also alto, bass,

A small illustration showing a piccolo (labeled 'piccolo') and a bass clarinet (labeled 'bass clarinet').

Most of the rest of the woodwind Clarinets, bass clarinets, and sax bassoons, and English horns have vibration so the instrument mal

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Time Signatures and Measures

Remember the time signature, those two numbers at the beginning of a piece? The top number indicates how many beats are in a measure, while the bottom number indicates what kind of note (what rhythm) gets one beat. It may be tempting to think of the time signature like a fraction, but don't; they're not the same.

The most common time signature is 4/4 time, so it is also known as common time. You might see it represented with a big C at the beginning of the music where the time signature is.



There are several other key signatures:

2 = 2 beats per measure	6 = 6 beats per measure
4 = quarter note gets the beat	8 = eighth note gets the beat
3 = 3 beats per measure	2 = 2 beats per measure
4 = quarter note gets the beat	2 = half note gets the beat

There are even more, but this gives you a good overview. Oftentimes, time signatures like 3/8, 6/8, and 9/8 time might actually be faster and felt in 1, 2, or 3, respectively. This would mean that the dotted quarter note feels like it gets 1 beat.

One last concept: measures. In our example above, we have 4 measures. In our C Major scale, we have 43 measures. Measures are just a way of dividing the music to make it easier to read and find your place.

But wait! That can't be everything to music theory, can it?? Of course not! Music theory is a vast field and this is just to get you a taste. For a more comprehensive music theory education, I recommend the Master Theory series (paid link).

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t with notes and pitch before we move on to rhythms.
 'ance between 2 pitches. These can be measured in half o
 is when two keys touch on the piano, without any keys
 p is when there is one key in between.
 an be given

count both the top and bottom note (and you're using
rs).

ird Fourth Fifth Sixth Seventh Eighth (octa

note is held for. Let's go over some common

- whole rest = 4 beats
- half rest = 2 beats
- quarter rest = 1 beat
- eighth rest = 1/2 beat
- sixteenth rest = 1/4 beat

nth notes, etc.) can also be barred together.

is this: 

ad of this:

for Scale

said that after you get to G⁴, an octave is the distance to the next G⁵. So, if you're way up, there are 12 notes (the last notes).

The Music Game