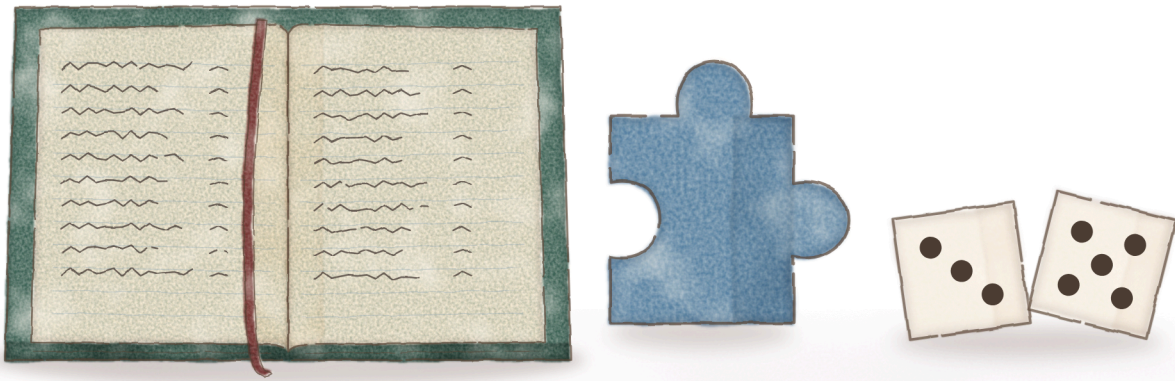


Piano Note Detective

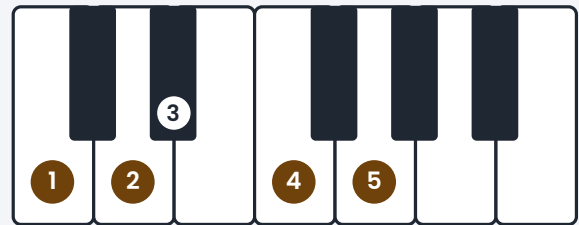
Major & Minor Five-Finger Codes

Five fingers, five keys, two secret codes: whole, whole, half, whole for major, and whole, half, whole, whole for minor. Build them, sort them, and hear the one note that changes.



IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: the major code
- Whole and half steps in C major
- Build a G major pattern
- Answers with reasons



C minor: the third key moves down a half step from C major.

- 1 Find the first key
- 2 Count the steps
- 3 Major or minor?
- 4 Play and listen

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For students who know half and whole steps and a five-finger position · Five sittings of about 15 minutes · With a piano or keyboard

How the case file works

Five cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a student who knows half and whole steps and can play a five-finger position. Five neighboring letters, played with five fingers, make a five-finger pattern. The pattern's half and whole steps make a code: major goes whole, whole, half, whole; minor goes whole, half, whole, whole. Case 4 needs a grown-up to play examples on a piano.

EACH CASE

The story	Read it aloud together. It says what the detective is looking for.
Learn	The rule for this case, with a picture. Point at it while you read it.
Tasks	Short tasks that use the rule. Each one has a single right answer (except play tasks).
Clue	The last task gives a clue for the final question.

YOU NEED

- A pencil
- A piano or keyboard (the paper keyboard in this book is enough for building patterns)
- For the listening case: a real piano or keyboard and a grown-up who plays the script

GOOD TO KNOW

- Use each letter once: D major is D, E, F sharp, G, A (not G flat).
- Only the middle (third) note differs between major and minor on the same first note.
- People describe major and minor in many ways; listen for the third note rather than for a mood.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Theory and keyboard practice for beginners, not piano lessons. Five-note patterns only; full scales and key signatures come in other books.

Case 1: The Major Code

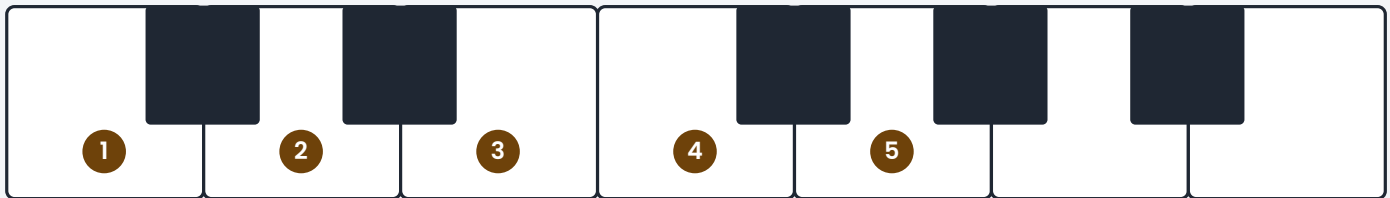
Major five-finger pattern: whole, whole, half, whole

THE STORY

A composer left five tunes in a locked folder, each written with a secret code of steps. Crack the codes to find the folder's label.

LEARN

- A five-finger pattern uses five neighboring letters: C, D, E, F, G.
- Its steps are a code. C major goes whole, whole, half, whole.
- Start the same code on another key and you get another major pattern: G, A, B, C, D.



C major: 1 to 2 whole, 2 to 3 whole, 3 to 4 half, 4 to 5 whole.

1 Write W (whole step) or H (half step) in each box between the notes.

C	D	E	F	G

2 Fill in the missing note of the G major five-finger pattern. Use the keyboard to check the steps.



G	A	B		D
1	2	3	4	5

Case 1: The Major Code (continued)

3 Choose the code.

1. Which step code makes a major five-finger pattern?

- ☐ T whole, whole, half, whole
- ☐ P whole, half, whole, whole
- ☐ L half, whole, whole, whole

CLUE 1



The first letter of the label is the letter of your answer to task 3.

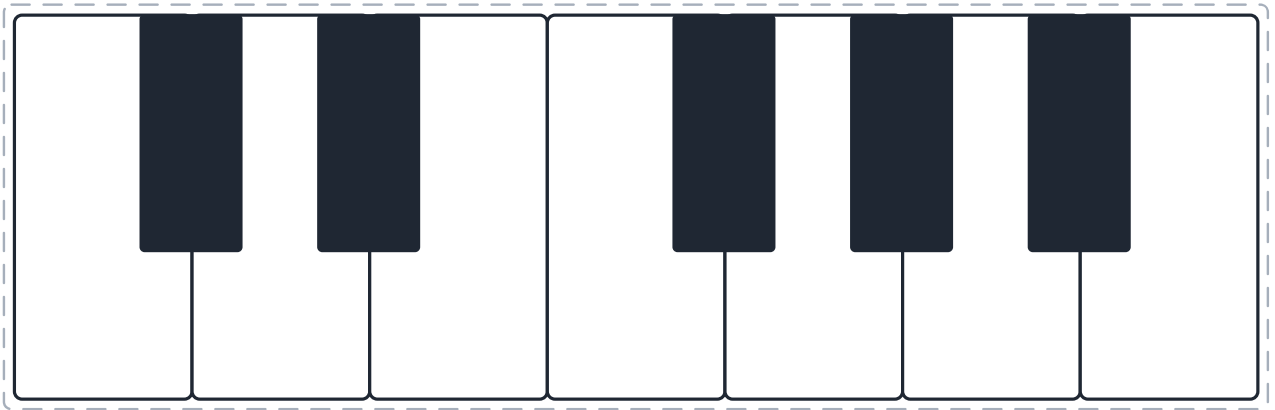
Clue:

Copy it onto the answer line of the final question.

Paper keyboard

Cut out the rows and tape them in order, low to high. White keys are about as wide as a real piano's.

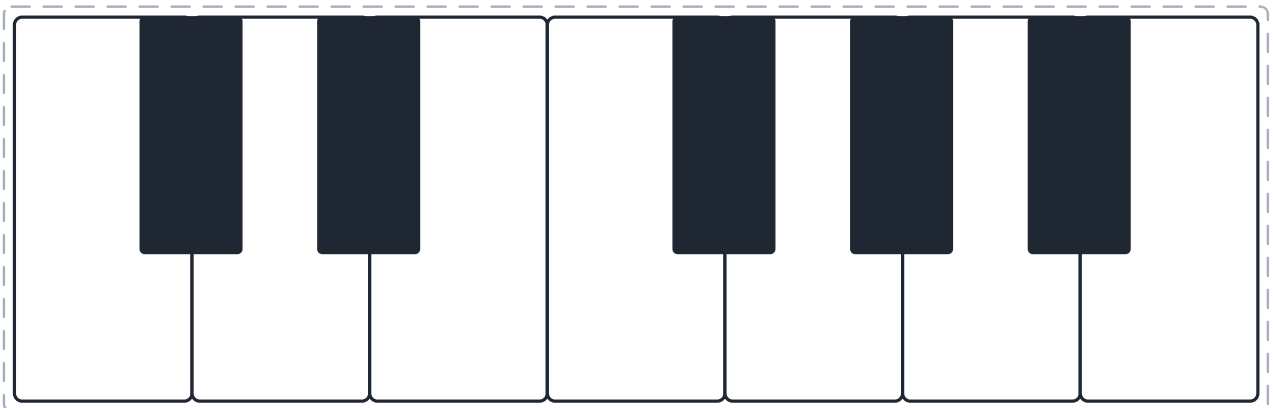
Low



Middle



High



Only Middle C is labeled: finding the other keys is the detective's job. Tape the rows edge to edge (low on the left) to make one long keyboard.

Case 1 answers

Every answer comes with its reason. Read the reasons aloud: they teach.

CASE 1 · THE MAJOR CODE

Task 1

1 W · 2 W · 3 H · 4 W

PND34-C1-T1

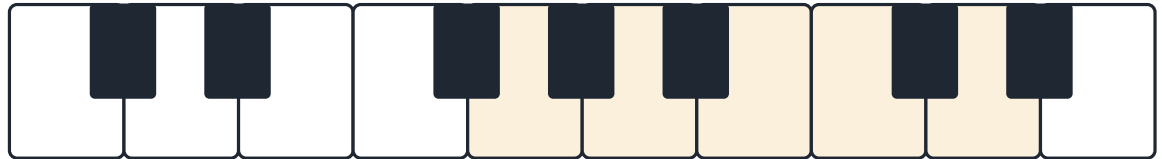
C to D: one key between, a whole step; D to E: one key between, a whole step; E to F: the very next key, a half step; F to G: one key between, a whole step.

Task 2

G A B [C] D

PND34-C1-T2

G major five-finger pattern: W W H W. Half steps here: B-C.



Task 3

1 T: whole, whole, half, whole

PND34-C1-T3

Major: whole, whole, half, whole (C, D, E, F, G).

Clue 1

T (the answer to item 1 of task 3)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Major & Minor Five-Finger Codes has four more cases: the minor code, sorting patterns, teacher-led listening and building new patterns, with a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.