FREE SAMPLE · CASE 1

Piano Note Detective

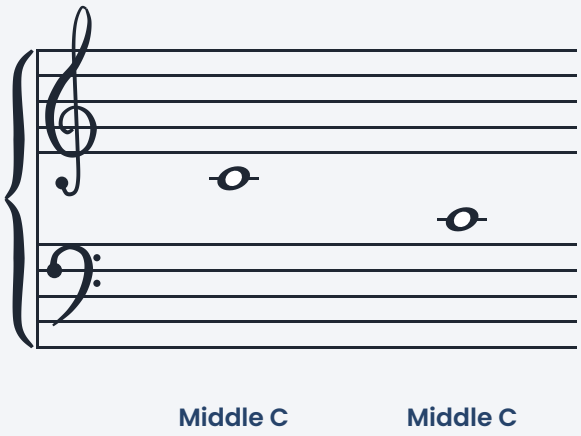
Middle C Evidence Files

Middle C is one key, but it is written in two places. Four evidence files prove it: on the keys, below the treble staff, above the bass staff, and on the grand staff.



IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Evidence File 1: the key in the middle
- Find Middle C among all the Cs
- Name its neighbors on the keys
- Paper keyboard and answers



1. **Find the clef**
2. **Find the ledger line**
3. **Count from the staff**
4. **Find the key**

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For beginners starting to read the staff · Four sittings of about 15 minutes · With a grown-up

How the case file works

Four evidence files, about 15 minutes each.

For a beginner who knows the white keys and is starting to read notes on the staff. Every file is about one key, Middle C, and the notes right next to it. By the end the detective can find Middle C on the piano, below the treble staff, above the bass staff, and on the grand staff, and knows that all of them are the same key.

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 if you have one, or the paper keyboard near the end
- Four short sittings, one file each

GOOD TO KNOW

- A ledger line is a short extra line for one note, above or below the staff.
- Middle C written below the treble staff and Middle C written above the bass staff are the same key, with the same sound.
- Which staff a note is written on depends on the music, not on which hand must play it.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Middle C practice for beginners, not piano lessons. Note reading and keyboard practice only: no sharps, flats or key signatures.

Case 1: The Key in the Middle

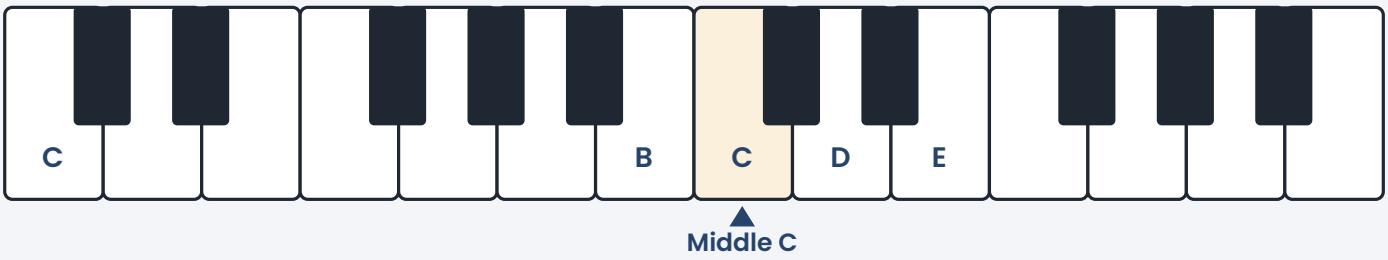
Find Middle C among all the Cs, and its neighbors

THE STORY

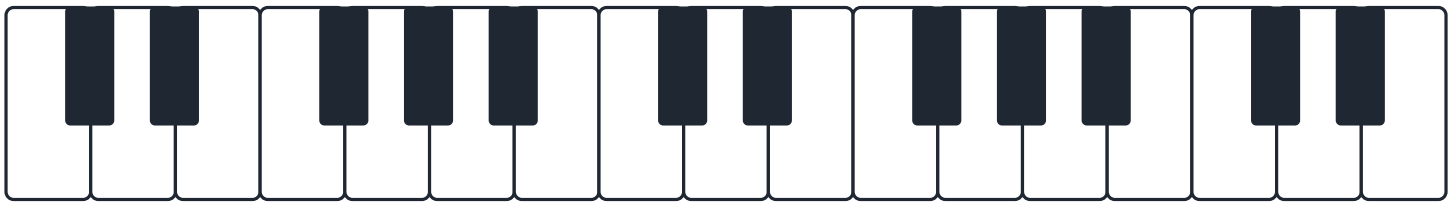
The Riverside Youth Orchestra rehearses on Saturdays. This week Theo is turning pages for the pianist, and he is worried: Middle C looks different on the top staff and on the bottom staff. "Did the copier make a mistake?" Detective, open the evidence files. Start with the piano itself.

LEARN

- The white key just left of each group of two black keys is a C.
- Middle C is the C nearest the middle of the piano. Adults call it C4.
- Its neighbors: B just to the left, D just to the right, then E.



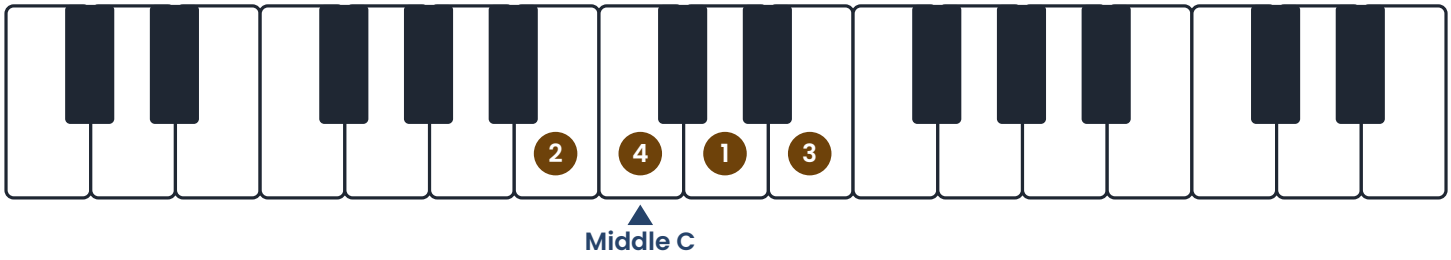
1 This strip is the middle of the piano. Circle the C nearest the middle. Which C is it, counting from the left?



It is the … C from the left: 1st 2nd 3rd

Case 1: The Key in the Middle (continued)

2 Four keys near Middle C are numbered. Write the letter of each one.



1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

3 Play the C below Middle C, then Middle C, then the C above it. Which one sounds in the middle?

I played it | I pointed and sang

CLUE 1

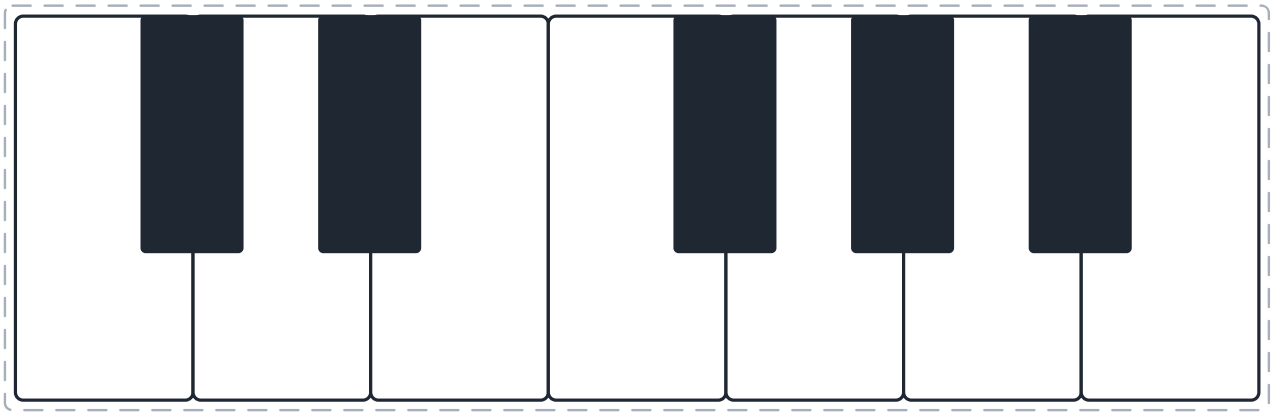
Evidence File 1 is stamped with one letter: the letter of key 3 in task 2.

Clue: ☐ In the full case file, the clues from every case solve 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.

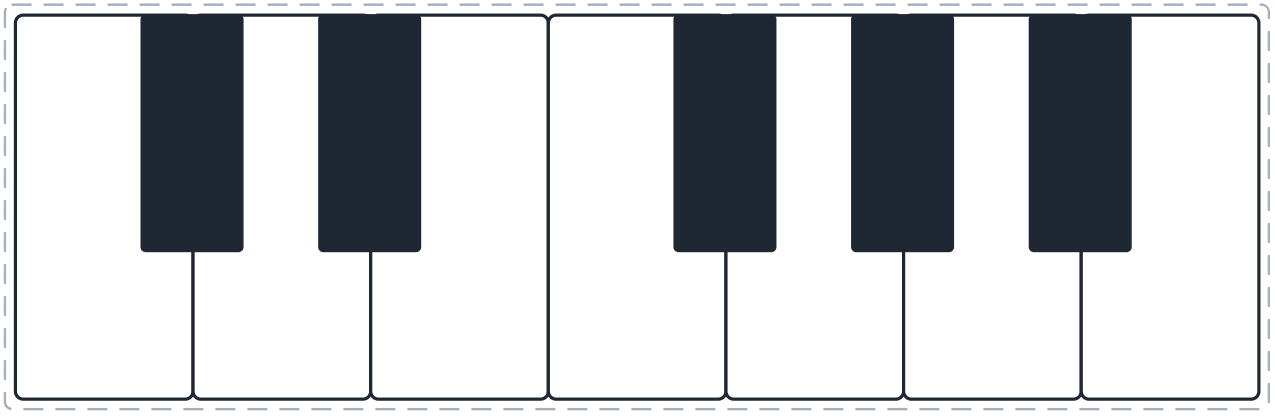
Low



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 KEY IN THE MIDDLE

Task 1
PND04-C1-T1

the 2nd C from the left (Middle C, C4)

The strip has 3 C keys (C3, C4, C5); Middle C is the C nearest the middle of the piano, and this strip is the middle of the piano, so it is the 2nd C.



Task 2
PND04-C1-T2

1 D · 2 B · 3 E · 4 C

D is between the two black keys of a group of two (D4). B is just right of a group of three black keys (B3). E is just right of a group of two black keys (E4). C is just left of a group of two black keys (C4).



Task 3
PND04-C1-T3

Middle C sounds in the middle: lower than the C above it, higher than the C below it.

Clue 1

E (the answer to item 3 of task 2)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Middle C Evidence Files has three more files: Middle C below the treble staff, above the bass staff, and on the grand staff, with a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.