

Piano Note Detective

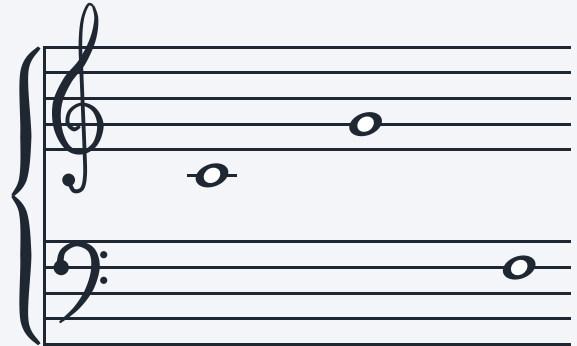
Case 1: The Missing Staff Badges

Find three lost badges, name every note, and match it to its key. For beginning piano students, about ages 6–10.



IN THIS FREE CASE

- The three landmark notes: Middle C, Treble G and Bass F
- 8 detective questions, from easy to tricky
- A paper keyboard to cut out
- Answers with a reason for each one
- A short page for the grown-up



Middle C

Treble G

Bass F

1

Find the clef

2

Count lines and spaces

3

Find the key

4

Play it

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · Works on a piano, a keyboard or the paper keyboard

Before you begin

A free, complete case: read, name, find and play.

This free case teaches the three landmark notes many piano teachers start with: Middle C, Treble G and Bass F. A learner names each note on the staff and finds it on the piano.

WHAT YOU NEED

- A piano or keyboard, if you have one
- The paper keyboard on page 6, cut out
- A pencil

HOW TO USE IT (ABOUT 15 MINUTES)

- 1 Read the case briefing together (page 3). Let the learner point to each landmark on the staff and on the keys.
- 2 The learner answers questions 1–8 (pages 4–5). Encourage "clef first, then count".
- 3 Play each answer on the piano. Hearing it helps the name stick.
- 4 Check the answers together (page 7). Every answer has a reason you can read aloud.

NO PIANO?

Use the paper keyboard. Pointing at paper keys links the staff to the keyboard, but it is not piano practice: it makes no sound and does not train fingers or ears.

THE FULL CASE BOOK

Piano Note Detective: The Missing Melody continues the story in seven cases — keyboard map, landmarks, up and down, steps and skips, both clefs, rhythm in 4/4 and a finale — with a teacher and family guide.

The Missing Staff Badges

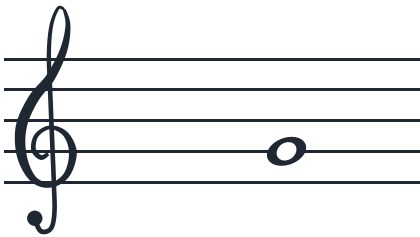
The three landmark notes

CASE BRIEFING

Three shiny badges have gone missing from the Note Board in the Willowbrook Music Room. They turned up under the piano this morning, but their letter labels had fallen off. Each badge shows one note. Your job: name every badge, then find its key on the piano.

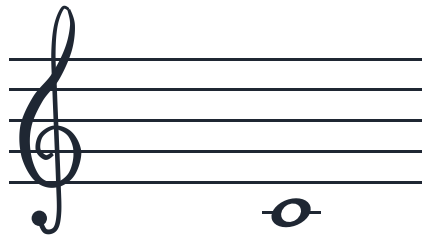
LEARN THE THREE LANDMARKS

Treble G



On the 2nd line of the treble staff.
On the piano: the G four white keys up from Middle C.

Middle C



On a short ledger line just below the treble staff (or just above the bass staff).
On the piano: the C just left of the two black keys nearest the middle of the piano.

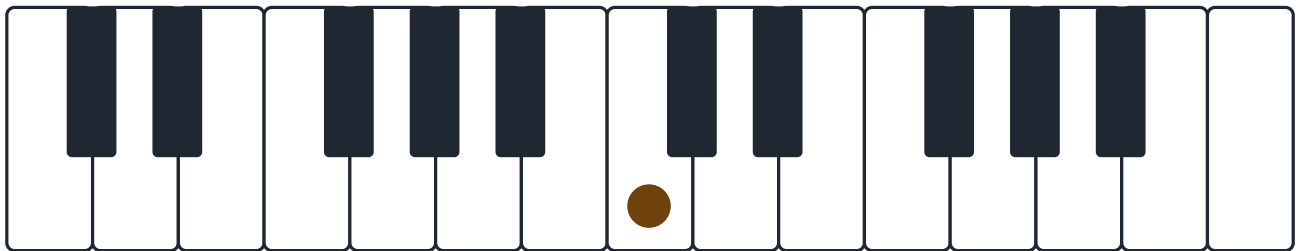
Bass F



On the 4th line of the bass staff, between the two dots of the bass clef.
On the piano: the F four white keys down from Middle C.

MIDDLE C ON THE PIANO

Middle C



Middle C is the C just left of the two black keys nearest the middle of the piano. Count four white keys up for G, and four white keys down for F.

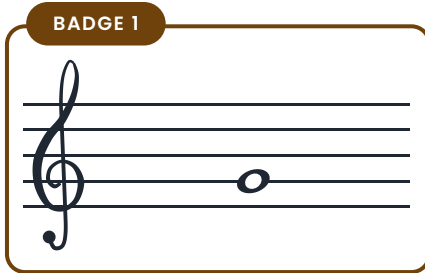
DETECTIVE RULE

1. Find the clef. 2. Count lines and spaces from the bottom. 3. Check on the keyboard.

Questions 1-4

Clef first, then count lines and spaces from the bottom.

- 1 Badge 1. Which clef is on this badge? Then write the note's letter name.



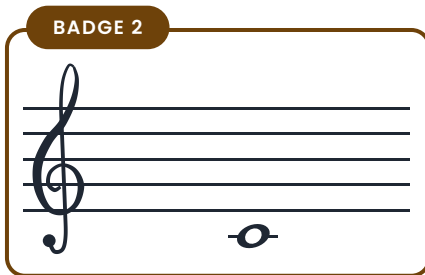
Clef:

treble

bass

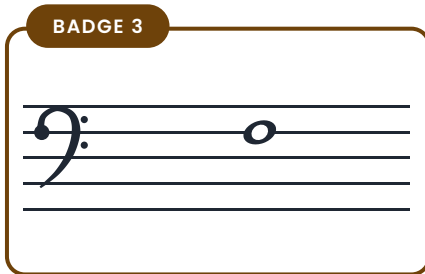
Name:

- 2 Badge 2. This note sits on a short extra line below the staff (a ledger line). Write its name.



Name:

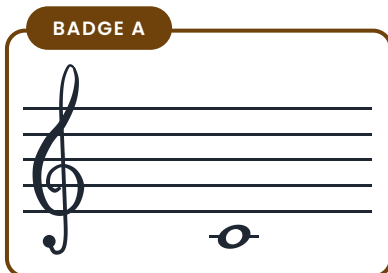
- 3 Badge 3. Count the lines from the bottom. Which line is the note on? Then write its name.



Line: _____ line

Name:

- 4 Two badges, one key. These two badges are written differently, but they show the same key. Which key is it?

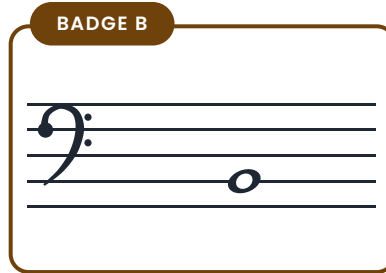
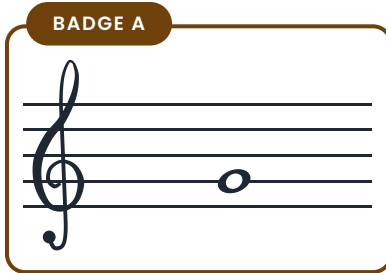


Key:

Questions 5-8

Read the clef before every note.

- 5 Look-alikes. Both notes sit on the 2nd line. Do they show the same note?

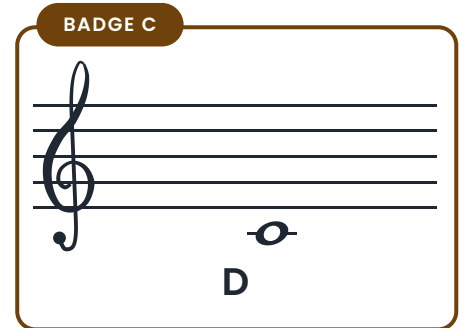
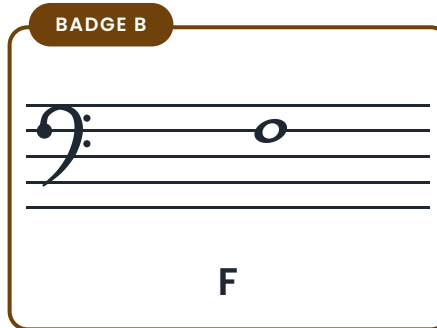
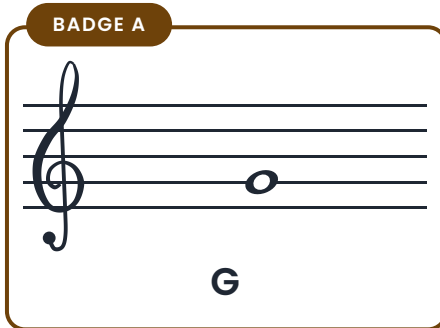


yes

no

Why?

- 6 Find the false label. Somebody stuck the labels back on, and one is wrong. Circle the badge with the wrong label and write the right letter.



- 7 On the keyboard. Write C, G and F on the right keys: Middle C, the G four white keys up from it, and the F four white keys down from it. (This strip is the middle of the piano, like the one on page 3.)



- 8 Play and check. Play the three badge notes: Middle C, then G, then F. Which sounds highest? Which sounds lowest?

Highest:

Lowest:

DETECTIVE CHECK: TICK EACH ONE

☐

I found the clef first.

☐

I counted lines and spaces from the bottom.

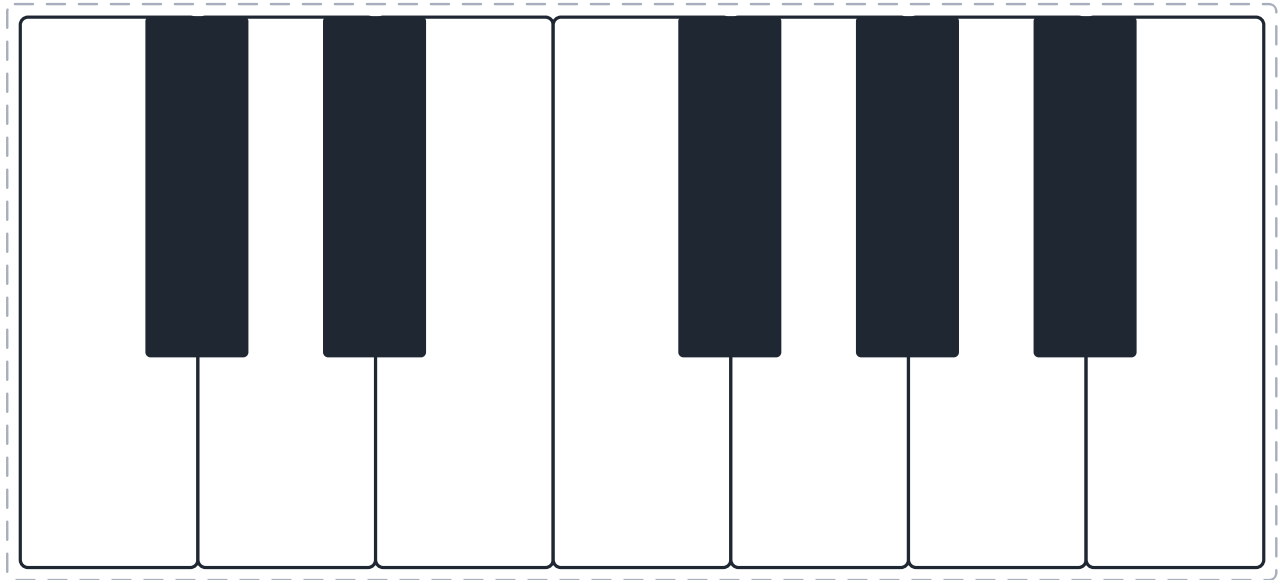
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I checked my answer on the keyboard.

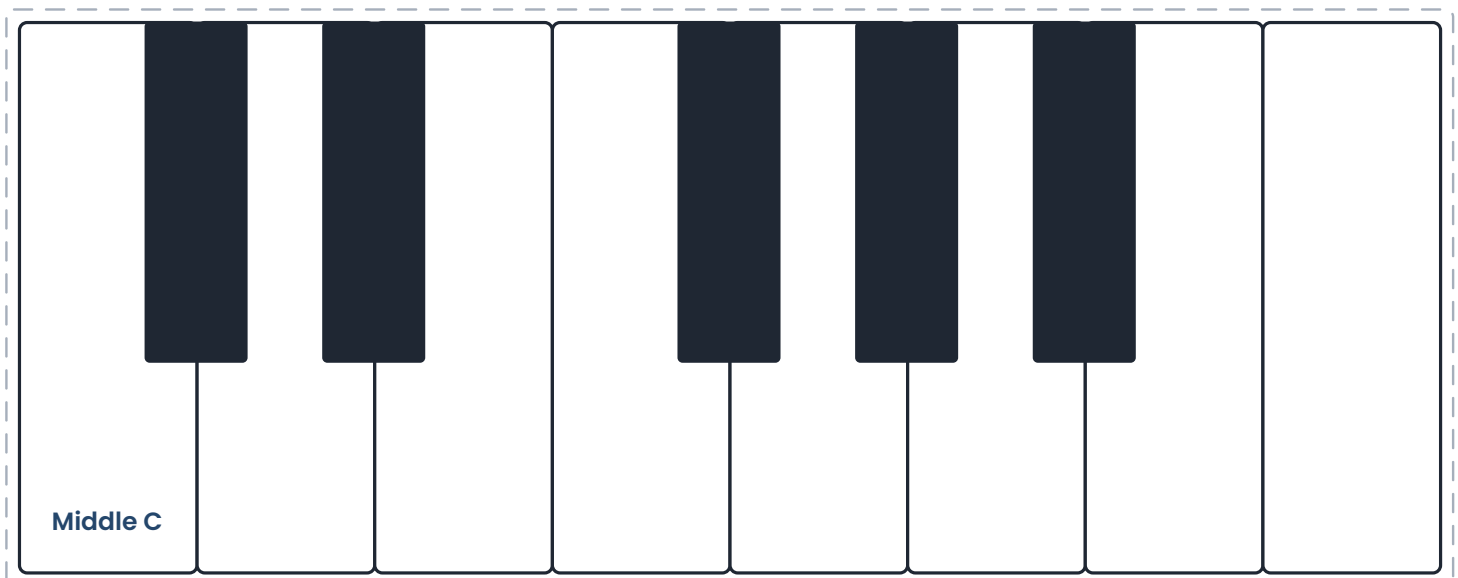
Paper keyboard

Cut out both strips and lay them side by side: left strip, then right strip.

LEFT STRIP



RIGHT STRIP



DETECTIVE MARKERS: CUT OUT AND PLACE ON KEYS



Paper keyboard: a staff-to-keyboard exercise for pointing at keys. It is not piano practice and it does not make a sound.

Case 1 answers

The Missing Staff Badges

Read each reason aloud together. If an answer was different, find the landmark again and count.

- 1. Badge 1** **Treble clef; G (the G above Middle C, G4).**
The curl of the treble clef wraps around the 2nd line, and a note on that line is G.
- 2. Badge 2** **Middle C (C4).**
In the treble clef, the first ledger line below the staff is Middle C.
- 3. Badge 3** **The 4th line; F (the F below Middle C, F3).**
In the bass clef, the two dots sit either side of the 4th line, and a note on that line is F.
- 4. Two badges, one key** **Middle C (C4), on both badges.**
Middle C has a ledger line below the treble staff and a ledger line above the bass staff: one key, written two ways.
- 5. Look-alikes** **No.**
The clefs are different. On the treble staff the 2nd line is G; on the bass staff the 2nd line is a different, much lower note (B). Always read the clef first.
- 6. Find the false label** **Badge C: its label says D, but the note is Middle C. The right letter is C.**
The treble clef note on the ledger line below the staff is Middle C. D would sit in the space just above that ledger line, touching the bottom line.
- 7. On the keyboard** **C on Middle C (the 2nd C on this strip), G four white keys to its right, F four white keys to its left.**
From Middle C, count white keys: D, E, F, G going right; B, A, G, F going left.
- 8. Play and check** **G sounds highest; F sounds lowest.**
On a piano, keys further right sound higher. G is to the right of Middle C and F is to the left. No piano? Point to the keys on the paper keyboard: the key furthest right is the highest.