FREE SAMPLE · CASE 1

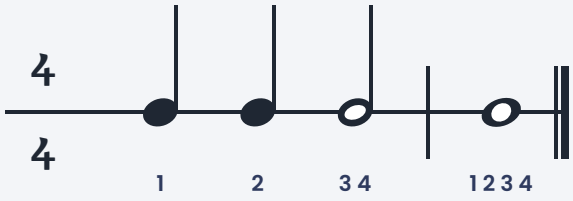
Piano Note Detective

Rhythm Evidence: Beats & Rests

How long does each note last? Count whole, half and quarter notes, hear the silent beats of rests, and fill bars of 4/4, 2/4 and 3/4 so every bar holds the right number of beats.

IN THIS FREE SAMPLE

- Case 1: note values
- Count the beats of each note
- Fill a bar of 4/4
- Clapping and answers



1. **Find the time signature**
2. **Count each note and rest**
3. **Add the beats**
4. **Clap and check**

Digital download · Print at 100% on US Letter · For beginners who are learning to count rhythms · Four sittings of about 15 minutes · With a grown-up

How the case file works

Four cases, about 15 minutes each.

For a beginner who is learning to count rhythms. Every rhythm sits on one line: the notes say how long a sound lasts, and the rests say how long a silence lasts. The time signature's top number says how many beats fill a bar; in this book a quarter note always gets one beat.

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
- Hands for clapping, or a piano or keyboard
- Four short sittings, one case each

GOOD TO KNOW

- Count out loud: "1, 2, 3, 4". A whole note lasts all four counts; a half note two; a quarter note one.
- A rest is a silence that lasts for beats, just like a note. Keep counting through it: say "shh" or tap your knee.
- Only simple meters here: 4/4, 2/4 and 3/4.

NOT A METHOD BOOK

Rhythm-reading practice for beginners, not music lessons. Note reading and keyboard practice only: no sharps, flats or key signatures.

Case 1: How Long Is Each Note?

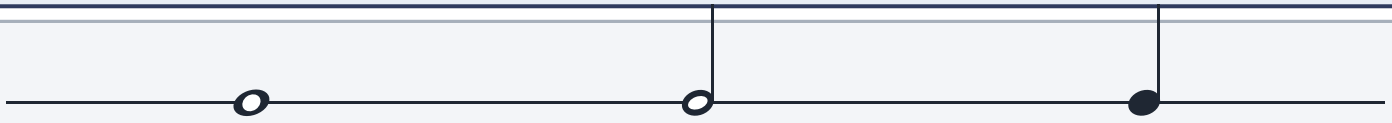
Whole note 4 beats, half note 2, quarter note 1

THE STORY

The school band has a big concert on Friday, but one instrument has gone missing from the music room. The drummer left rhythm clues on the board. Count them to find out which instrument it is.

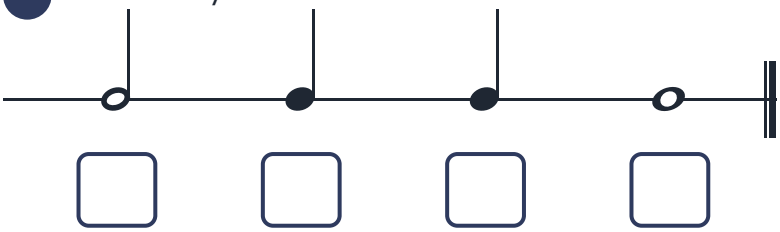
LEARN

- A whole note lasts 4 beats: count 1, 2, 3, 4.
- A half note has a stem and lasts 2 beats. A quarter note is filled in and lasts 1 beat.
- Two half notes last as long as one whole note.



whole note: 4 beats | half note: 2 beats | quarter note: 1 beat

1 How many beats does each note last? Write the number under it.

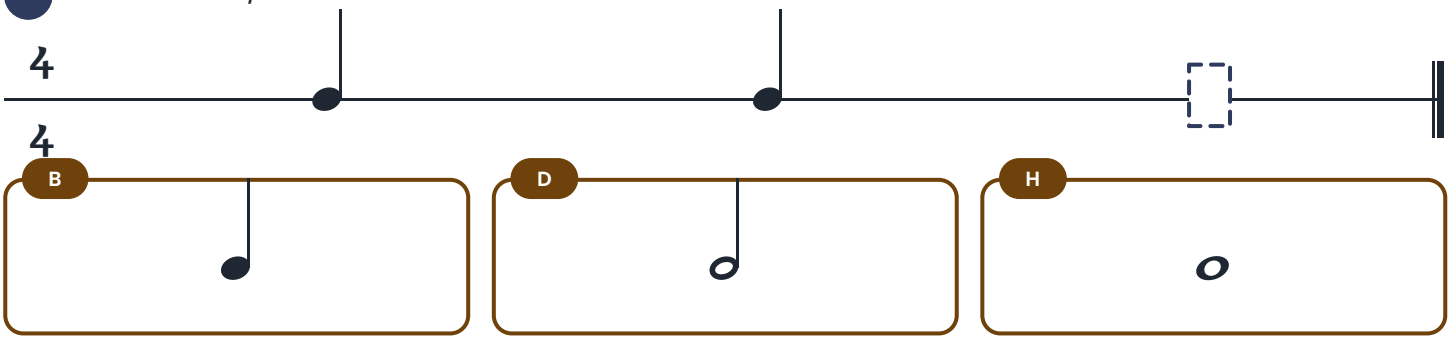


2 Add up the beats in this row.

Total beats: ☐

Case 1: How Long Is Each Note? (continued)

3 This bar of 4/4 needs 4 beats. Which note fills the box?



B

D

H

Circle the letter that fills the box: B D H

CLUE 1

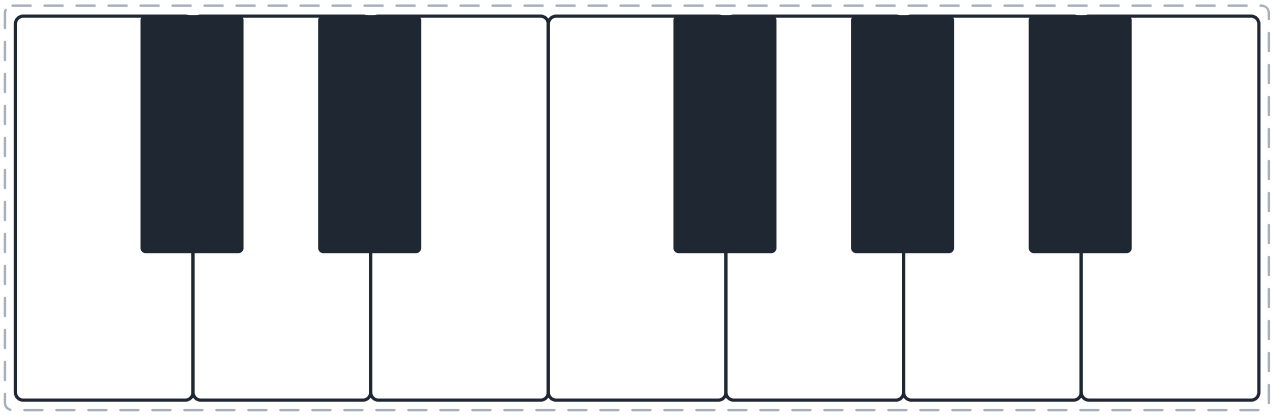
The first letter of the instrument is the letter of the note that fills the box in task 3.

Clue: _____ Copy it onto the answer line of the final question.

Paper keyboard

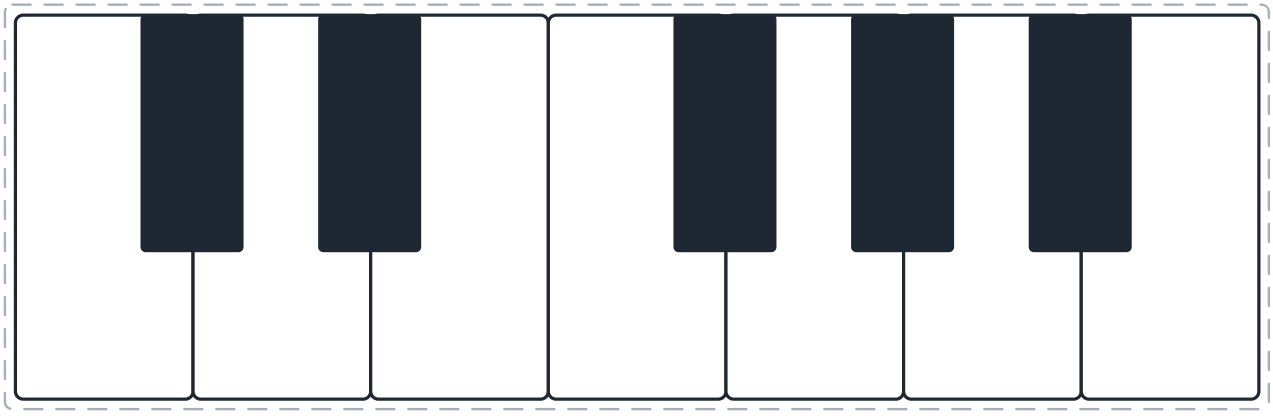
Cut out the rows and tape them in order, low to high. White keys are about as wide as a real piano's.

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 · HOW LONG IS EACH NOTE?

Task 1	1 2 · 2 1 · 3 1 · 4 4
PND14-C1-T1	A half note gets 2 beats. A quarter note gets 1 beat. A whole note gets 4 beats.
Task 2	6 beats
PND14-C1-T2	1 + 2 + 1 + 2 = 6.
Task 3	D: a half note (2 beats)
PND14-C1-T3	The bar needs 4 beats. It has 2 (1 + 1), so 2 beats are missing: a half note.
Clue 1	D (the answer to item 1 of task 3)

THE FULL CASE FILE

The full Rhythm Evidence: Beats & Rests has three more cases: rests, bars of 4/4, and 2/4 and 3/4 with the dotted half, with a notebook, the final question, hints and a certificate.