

Music in the Making



Elements of Composition

Composition Activity

All music starts with inspiration. After inspiration, composers must plan! Follow the steps below to plan your own composition.

Step 1: Choose an inspiration for your composition. First decide if you want your music to be inspired by a color, character, event, or place. Then choose one specific item from that category. Use the options below or make up your own. Circle the inspiration for your music.

COLOR	CHARACTER	EVENT	PLACE
Blue	Hero	Party	City
Red	Villain	Battle	Jungle
Yellow	Animal	Adventure	Mountains
Black	Alien	Dance	Ocean
_____	_____	_____	_____

Write down some thoughts and feelings about your inspiration:

Step 2: Plan out the elements of your composition.

INSTRUMENTATION:

What instruments
will you use?

Will they all play
together or some
at a time?

INSTRUMENTATION:

TEMPO:

What will be the
speed of your music?

Will it change?

TEMPO:

DYNAMICS:

What will be the
volume of your
music?

Will it change?

DYNAMICS:

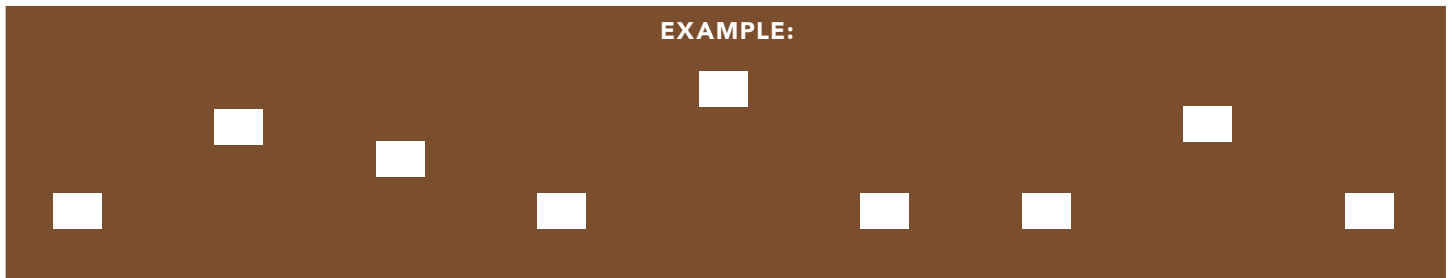
EXPRESSION:

What feelings do
you want your music
to express?

EXPRESSION:

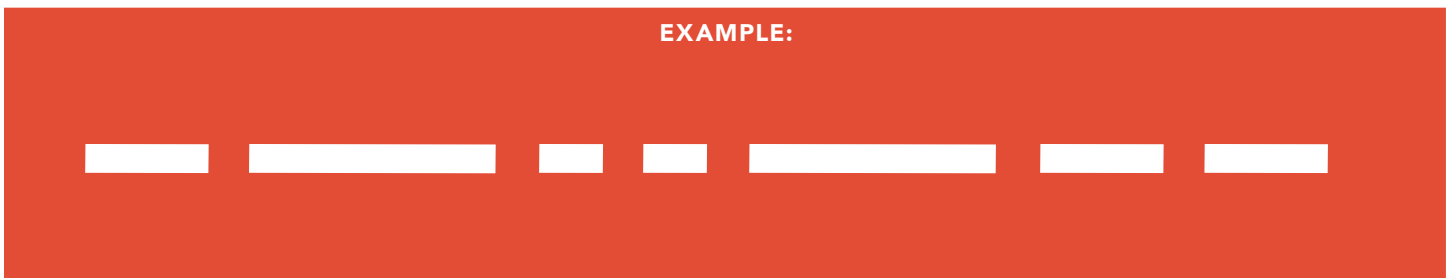
Step 3: Plan a melody for your composition. Identify the shape of the pitch and rhythm.

PITCH: Pitch is the musical word for how high or low we hear a sound.
Draw the shape of your melody's pitch.



PITCH:

RHYTHM: Rhythm is the musical word for the length of a sound.
Draw the shape of your melody's rhythm.



RHYTHM:

Step 4: Use the prompts below to describe your composition. Add extra space if needed.

My composition begins with: _____

In the middle, it changes by: _____

At the end, it sounds like: _____

Optional Extension Activity: Document your musical ideas by combining your planned compositional elements in written music. You can use either standard notation or the creative notation that you planned.