

LESSON 1

KEY SIGNATURES

You will find the **KEY SIGNATURE** for your music at the beginning of the piece, next to the clef signs.

The **KEY SIGNATURE** tells you two things:

1. The **KEY** or **TONALITY** of the music.
2. Which notes in the music are to receive sharps or flats.

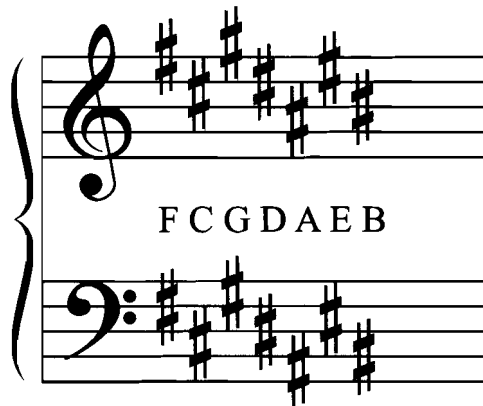


SHARPS

FLATS

NO SHARPS OR FLATS
(Key of C Major)

If a key signature has **SHARPS**, they will be written in this order, on these lines and spaces. This is called the **ORDER OF SHARPS**.



THE ORDER OF SHARPS

A saying to help you remember this order is:

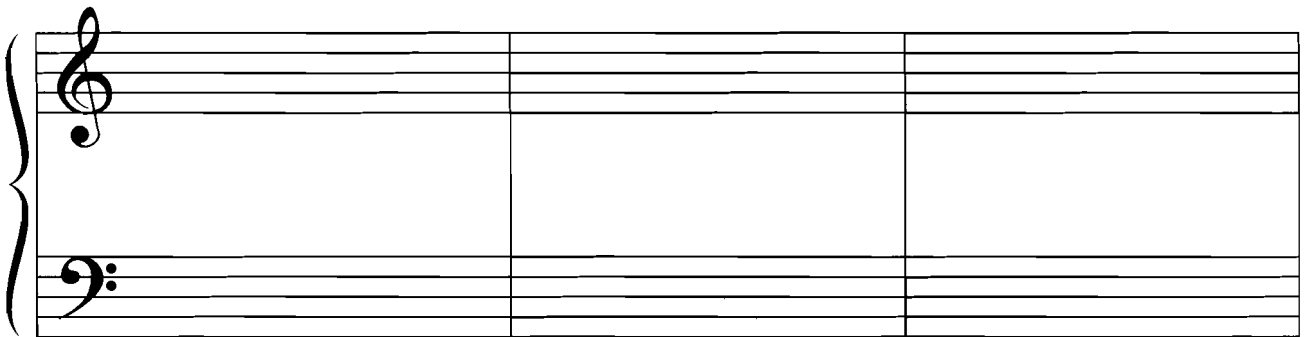
Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bologna

If a key signature has one sharp, it will be F#. If a key signature has two sharps, they will be F# and C#, etc.

1. Fill in the blanks.

- a. If a key signature has two sharps, they will be _____ and _____.
- b. If a key signature has three sharps, they will be _____, _____, and _____.
- c. If a key signature has one sharp, it will be _____.
- d. If a key signature has four sharps, they will be _____, _____, _____, and _____.

2. Write the **ORDER OF SHARPS** three times on the staff below, **in both clefs.**



Earn "Mozart Money" by naming key signatures with PBJ's *Basics of Keyboard Theory Computer Activities, Levels Preparatory through Two*.
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To find out which Major key a group of sharps represents, find and name the last sharp (the sharp furthest to the right), then go up a half step from that sharp. The name you come up with is the name of the Major key.



Three sharps: F#, C#, G#

Last sharp is G#

One half step above G# is A

Key of A Major

3. Name these Major keys.



1. The sharps are _____, _____,
and _____.

2. The last sharp is _____.

3. A half step above this sharp is _____.

4. Key of _____ Major.



1. The sharp is _____.

2. The last sharp is _____.

3. A half step above this sharp is _____.

4. Key of _____ Major.

c.

1. The sharps are _____ and _____.
2. The last sharp is _____.
3. A half step above this sharp is _____.
4. Key of _____ Major.

d.

1. The sharps are _____, _____, _____,
and _____.
2. The last sharp is _____.
3. A half step above this sharp is _____.
4. Key of _____ Major.

To determine which sharps are in a Major key, find the sharp which is a half step below the name of the key. Name all the sharps from the Order of Sharps up to and including that sharp.

Key of D Major

A half step below D is C#

Name all sharps, from the Order of Sharps, up to and including C#.

F# and C#

4. Write the key signatures for these keys.

a. Key of A Major

1. A half step below A is _____.
2. The Order of Sharps up to this sharp is _____, _____, _____.
3. Write these sharps on the staff, in the proper places, in both clefs.



b. Key of G Major

1. A half step below G is _____.
2. The Order of Sharps up to this sharp is _____.
3. Write these sharps on the staff, in the proper places, in both clefs.



c. Key of D Major

1. A half step below D is _____.
2. The Order of Sharps up to this sharp is _____, _____.
3. Write these sharps on the staff, in the proper places, in both clefs.

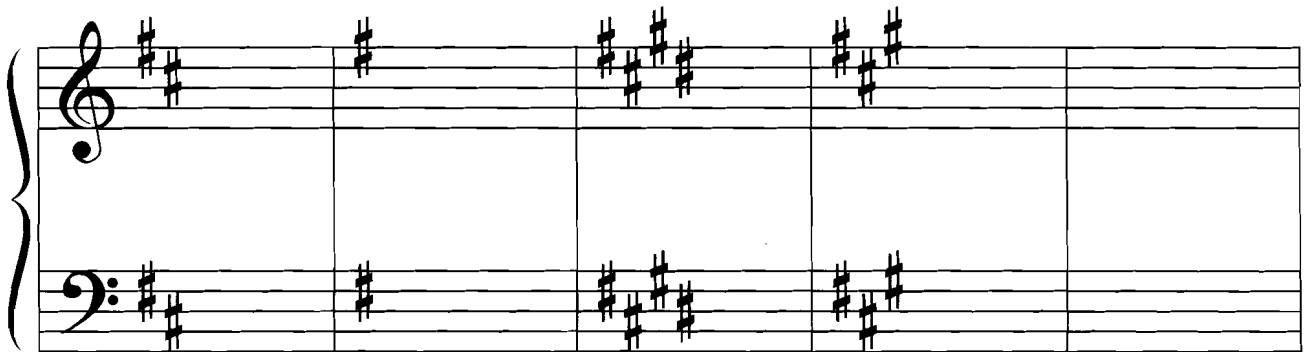


d. Key of E Major

1. A half step below E is _____.
2. The Order of Sharps up to this sharp is _____, _____, _____, _____.
3. Write these sharps on the staff, in the proper places, in both clefs.



5. Match these key signatures with their names, by drawing lines to connect them.



D Major

A Major

C Major

G Major

E Major

6. Memorize these key signatures.

- a. C Major has no sharps or flats.
- b. G Major has F#.
- c. D Major has F# and C#.
- d. A Major has F#, C#, and G#.
- e. E Major has F#, C#, G#, and D#.

If a key signature has flats, they will be written in this order, written on these lines and spaces. This is called the **ORDER OF FLATS**.



THE ORDER OF FLATS

The Order of Flats can be memorized this way:

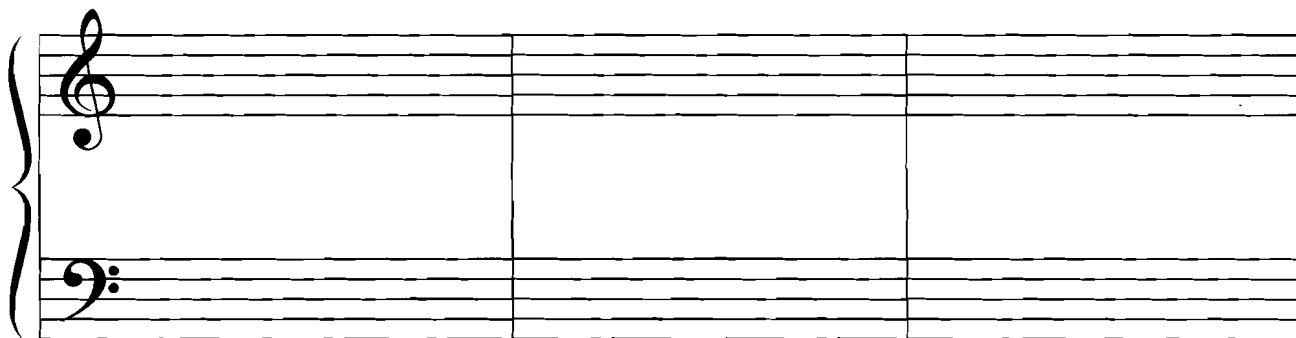
BEAD Gum Candy Fruit

If a key signature has one flat, it will be B \flat . If it has two flats, they will be B \flat and E \flat , etc.

7. Fill in the blanks.

- a. If a key signature has two flats, they are _____ and _____.
- b. If a key signature has one flat, it is _____.
- c. If a key signature has three flats, they are _____, _____, and _____.

8. Write the Order of Flats three times on the staff below, in both clefs.



To determine which Major key a group of flats represents, simply name the next to last flat.



Three flats: B \flat , E \flat , and A \flat .

Next to last flat is E \flat .

Key of E \flat Major.

The key signature for F Major has to be memorized. It has one flat: B \flat .



KEY SIGNATURE FOR F MAJOR

9. Name these Major keys.

a. 

1. One flat: _____.
2. This key signature must be memorized.
3. Key of _____ Major.

b. 

1. Two flats: _____ and _____.
2. Next to last flat is _____.
3. Key of _____ Major.

c. 

1. Three flats: _____, _____, and _____.
2. Next to last flat is _____.
3. Key of _____ Major.

To find the flats needed for a given key, name all the flats from the Order of Flats, up to and including the name of the key, then add one more flat.

Key of E_b Major

Name all flats from the Order of Flats up to and including E_b

B_b, E_b, and A_b



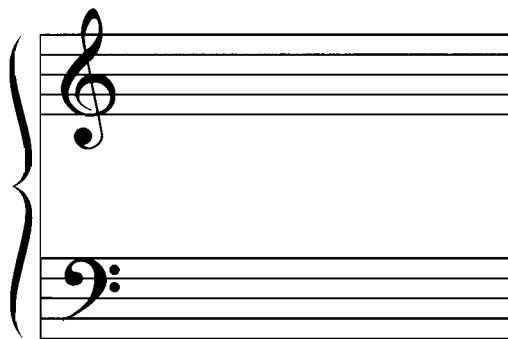
10. Write the key signatures for these keys.

a. Key of B \flat Major

1. Name all flats from the Order of Flats up to and including B \flat , then add one more.

2. _____ and _____.

3. Write these flats on the staff.

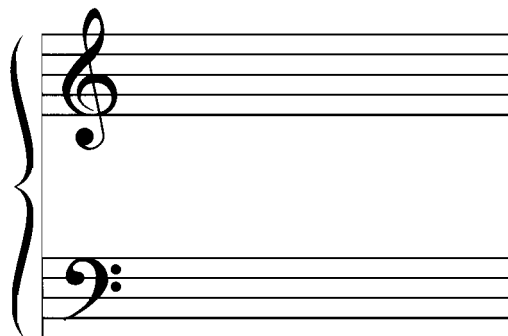


b. Key of F Major

1. Memorize this key signature.

2. _____.

3. Write this flat on the staff.

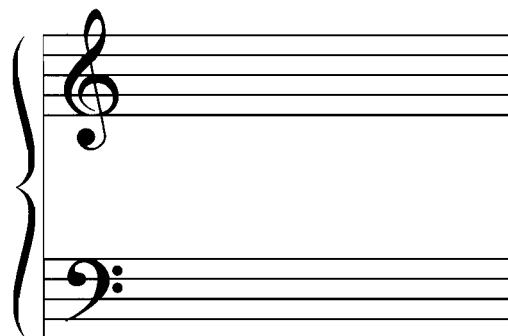


c. Key of E \flat Major

1. Name all flats from the Order of Flats up to and including E \flat , then add one more.

2. _____, _____ and _____.

3. Write these flats on the staff.



Music also contains **MINOR** keys. The key of **a minor** has no sharps or flats. It is the same as C Major.



KEY OF A MINOR

11. Match these key signatures with their names by drawing lines to connect them.

The image shows a musical staff with two staves (treble and bass clefs) and a brace on the left. The key signature is indicated by two flats (Bb and Eb) in the first measure. The rest of the staff is empty, suggesting a key signature exercise.

a minor

F Major

B \flat Major

C Major

E \flat Major

12. Memorize these key signatures.

- a. F Major has B \flat .
- b. B \flat Major has B \flat and E \flat .
- c. E \flat Major has B \flat , E \flat , and A \flat .
- d. a minor has no sharps or flats.