

Year 6 Autumn 1: Reading Notation: Time Signatures

Key Skills	Key Vocabulary	Key Composers	Musical Genres
Time Signature & Beat Structure (2/4 Time): Understanding 2/4 time signature (two ta beats per bar) and differentiating 2/4 strong beats (stamp/clap) from a steady pulse using drumsticks. Advanced Rhythm Reading & Technical Notation: Reading, clapping, chanting, and transcribing rhythms using ta, ti-ti, ti-tiki, tiki-ti, and syncopa patterns. 4-Part Rhythm Ensemble Performance: Performing a 4-part rhythm ensemble using four distinct instrument groups, refining dynamic levels between soloist and accompaniment, and controlling tempo shifts. Vocal Harmony & Partner Songs: Singing in 3-part rounds ("Our Dustbin", "Calypso") and performing a 4-part partner song ensemble combining "Great Big House in New Orleans", "Hey Jim-Along", "Turn the Glasses Over", and "Lil Liza Jane". Internalisation & "Thinking Voice": Transitioning from vocal chanting to instrumental execution by using internal rhythmic focus ("thinking voice"). Pitch Notation & Stave Analysis: Building song tonesets using singing names and hand signs, transcribing rhythms on 4 floor spots, and connecting rhythm to stave notation. Rhythm Improvisation: Creating original 4-beat rhythmic responses over backing loops incorporating ti-tiki and tiki-ti divisions.	Time Signature (2/4): Indicates two beats per bar of music. Stave Notation: A system of five lines and four spaces used to write down musical pitch and rhythm. Toneset: The specific collection of pitch notes used within a particular song. Syncopa: A syncopated three-note rhythm pattern (ti-ta-ti). Thinking Voice: Silently internalising pitches or rhythms in your mind while performing or keeping time. Partner Songs: Independent songs that can be sung simultaneously to create multi-part harmony. Round: A musical structure where groups sing the same melody starting at different times. Dynamics: The volume levels of music, used to balance soloist lines against ensemble accompaniment. Tempo: The speed of the underlying pulse, including deliberate changes and shifts.	Gioachino Rossini: Italian classical composer famous for the "William Tell Overture" (highlighting ti-tiki and tiki-ta rhythmic motifs). Dukes of Dixieland: American Dixieland Jazz ensemble known for "Down By the Riverside" (focusing on syncopa rhythms). New Order: British rock/synth-pop group behind "Blue Monday" (focusing on driving tiki-tiki rhythms) 	American Folk Music: Traditional songs used for partner song performances and rhythm ensembles ("Lil Liza Jane", "Turn the Glasses Over", "Great Big House in New Orleans"). Classical Music: Orchestral works exploring dynamic shifts, tempo variations, and rhythmic motifs ("William Tell Overture"). Dixieland Jazz: Early 20th-century syncopated brass band style ("Down By the Riverside"). Soca & Calypso: Caribbean genres from Trinidad & Tobago and Notting Hill Carnival exploring call-and-response and rounds ("Follow The Leader", "Calypso"). Rock / Synth-Pop: Electronic pop featuring driving tiki-tiki semiquaver patterns ("Blue Monday").

Instruments & Equipment

Tuned Instruments: Glockenspiels (used for stave notation and toneset practice).

Untuned Percussion: Claves / drumsticks, Djembes / drums, Maracas / egg shakers, Bells / tambourines.

Visual & Instructional Props: 4 floor spots (for beat mapping and rhythm transcription), Rhythm flashcards, Backing loop tracks.