CELLO

PRE-READING A

THE MAGIC of music theory



Cello

The Magic of Music Theory

Pre-Reading A

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Pre-Reading A Violin: ISBN 978-1-959514-06-0; Library of Congress Number: 2024907507 Pre-Reading A Viola: ISBN 978-1-959514-07-7; Library of Congress Number: 2024907535 Pre-Reading A Cello: ISBN 978-1-959514-08-4; Library of Congress Number: 2024907540 This book is dedicated to Laura Crawford and Charles Regauer, directors of the Centenary Suzuki School in Shreveport, Louisiana. Thank you for welcoming me into your Suzuki family and giving me a platform to teach theory to string students.

Special thanks to Ruth Coleman for her editorial help. Thank you to Zach Nelson for his help with the cello aural skills recordings. A big thank you to all the students who have tested out these pages and activities.

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To the student:

Welcome to the Magic of Music Theory! Did you know that when you write things on paper it helps you remember them? This book is to help you remember things that you have learned in your lesson about your cello. This book will help you learn how to read and write music. Your practice partner will help you read and do each lesson. If you have any questions, be sure to ask your teacher. When you finish this book, you will know and understand more about your cello and playing music. It's the magic of music theory!

To the practice partner:

You are the cello hero. Practicing isn't always fun, and it's not always easy. But in this journey of learning to play the cello, you get to walk alongside a child and give them the gift of music that will last for their lifetime.

My hope with this series is that it helps you create happy memories as you work through the book. Playing games, reading stories, coloring, listening to music, learning how to draw and write notes. Depending on age and reading ability, you may need to read the pages to the student. You can learn along with them. Don't be afraid to help and lead the student to the answer. These might be new concepts and your child may not grasp it the first time it is introduced. That's ok! You will find a lot of review built in throughout the book and they will begin to understand and learn.

Keep theory time short! You can choose to do the lesson at the end of one practice session, or you could choose to divide it up with just a minute each day. Be sure and ask your teacher if they would like to do the "What Do You Hear?" pages in the lesson, or if you should access the online videos. Enjoy your journey into the magic of music theory.

To the teacher:

I created this series because I realized that my students needed some basic skills before we started note reading. I use this pre-reading series introduces students to rhythm notes, dynamic symbols, up and down on the fingerboard and the page before beginning note reading.

The aural skills pages "What Do You Hear?" can be done in the lesson or through links to online videos. Suggested recordings are linked for coloring pages, but feel free to select your favorite artist or recording to share with your student.

The Magic of Music Theory Series Guide

Use this chart to help find the level that is right for your student.

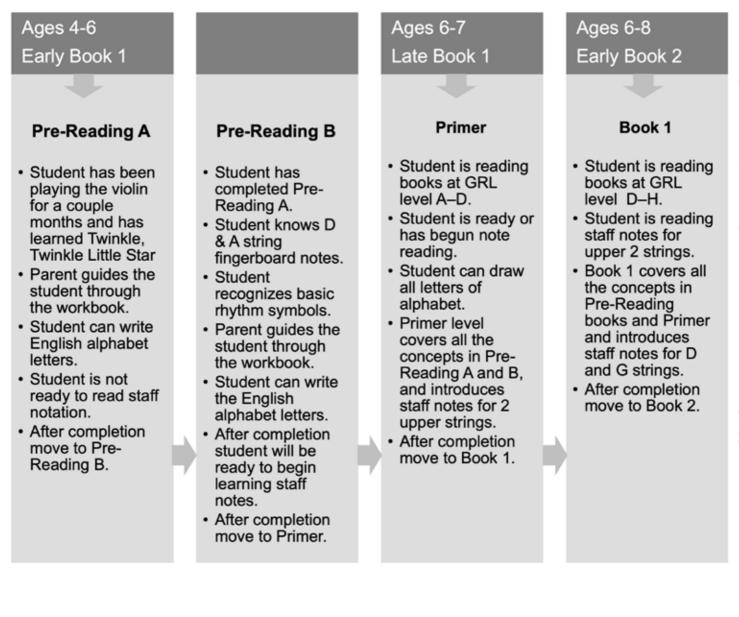


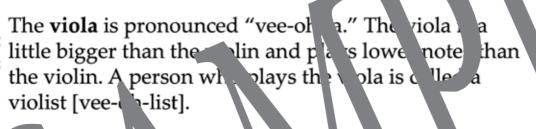
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There are 4 different instruments in the string family, the violin, viola, cello and double bass.

The **violin** is the smallest member of the string family, and it plays highest notes. A person who plays the violin is called a violinist.



The cello plays low not. And a persol who plays the cello is called a cellist [chell-ist of cellist sits down to play and restricted cello between his knees.

The **double bass** is the largest member of the string family, and it plays the lowest notes. Sometimes we call it bass for short. We pronounce this word "base," like baseball. A person who plays the bass is called a bassist[base-ist]. A bassist can stand up to play or sit on a tall stool to play.

The 3 Bears Visit the Music Store



nce upon a time, in a big woods, lived 3 bears – a Papa Bear, a Mama Bear and a Baby Bear. One morning as Mama Bear was cooking their breakfast porridge, she said to Baby

Bear, "Would you like to learn to to play a stringed instrument?" "Sure," said Baby Bear. "That sounds like fun. I like listening to string music on my tablet!"

"Well," said Mama Bear, "while we wait for our porridge to cool let's go visit the music store!"

So, Papa Bear, Mama Bear and Baby Bear all wont into to an to *Goldie's Music Store*. "I'm so sorry that Goldie is in there toda, She just left to go for a walk in the woods say the Lean behind the counter. "Could I help you?" be asked His I me ug said, "Goldie's Grand Staff – My Strow. "Well, My Strow," toid Papa Bear, "Baby Bear was conting to team to prov an instrument. But on our way here, Mama war and wore talk becaud decided that we want to lown to play on Can you relp us ind the righinguments? I would love whelp you!" said My Strow.

My Strow go a violin down from the wall such and ed it to Papa Bear. Papa Bear, would be u like to try a siolin scapa Bear put the violin under



a like to try a bioline. Capa Bear put the violin under the chin. When he held the violin, it looked like a little, to a in bodig paws. "Wow! This is very small!" said Prove Bear. Then, he put the bow on the string. "This violin makes very high sounds. I don't think I like these high notes." "Ok. No problem," said My Strow. "Why don't you try this viola? It's a little bit bigger and sounds a little lower." Papa Bear took the viola and tried it. "Why yes, this is better. It isn't as high as

the violin. But you know, when I talk my voice is very low. I like low sounds. Is there an instrument that make low sounds?" My Strow smiled and answered, "Oh yes! I know just the one! Come sit in this chair and try this cello. To play the cello, rest it between your legs." Papa Bear sat down and played some of low tones on the cello. He had a big smile and said, "Oh yes! I love this sound! This cello is *just* right!" said Papa Bear. 2. Listen to the cello play "The Swan" by Camille Saint-Saëns while you color the picture below.





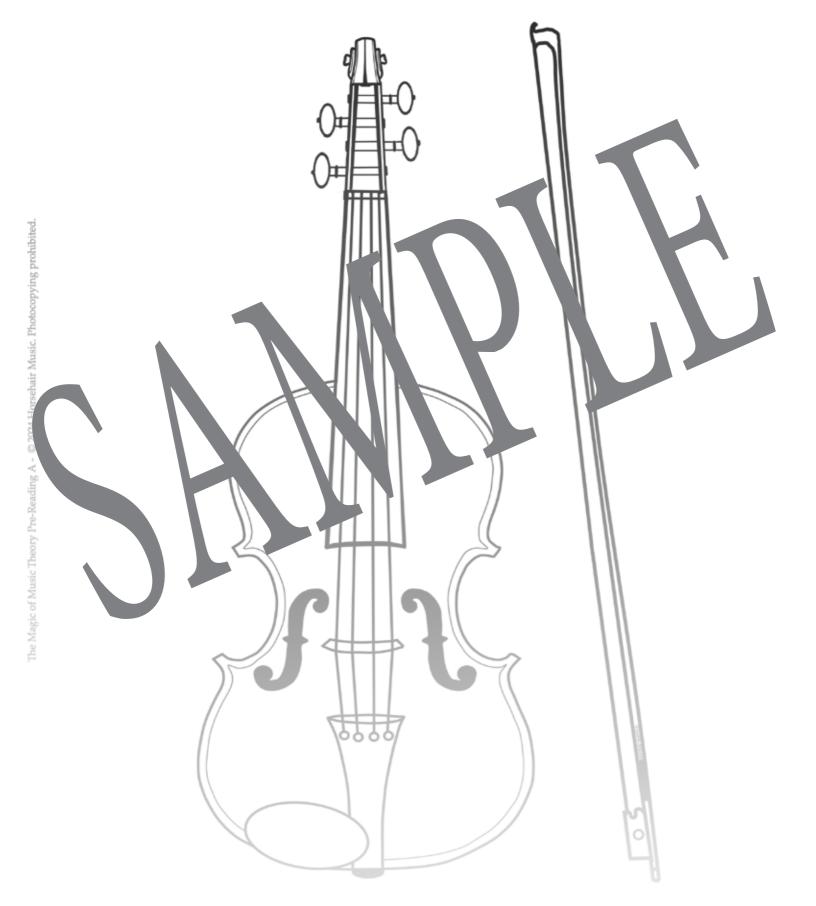
My Strow turned to Mama Bear. "Would you like to try playing a cello too?" "Sure," said Mama Bear. So, she sat down and played some notes. "Hmm. I liked it when Papa Bear played the low notes, but the cello sounds just a little too low for me. I'm a Mama Bear, but I really don't like to growl very much."

> "Hmmm," said My Strow. "If the cello sound is too low, then you won't like the double bass sound either The bass sounds even lower than the cello!" "And," said Mama Bear "don't you have to stand up to play the bass? I'm not sure that would be very good for my back. I think my back legs would get very tired wbile was pract legs "Ok," said My Strow, "I to ink wongreathat the double bass is not a good fit for you."

My Site w asked, Would you like to it r a violin?' Mana Lear arised planing some range on the lin. "Oh lea. Vn son Vm b ng so picky," said Ma ha Bear, 'but' Jon't r Illy live mis one either. This folin makes v_{i} y his bounds, and it feels "" My S row s iled at d said, "No problem, Mama Bear. SO I know the instrum at fe you! My Strow picked up a viola and handen it to Mama car. She took the viola and put it under her jaw. "In this one feels very good. It is not quite . sm /l as the violin." Then she began to use the bow on the strings. "These notes don't sound so low like the cello. But they aren't high like the violin either. It seems that they are right in the middle. And this viola sound so mellow and soothing. These are just the kind of sounds busy Mama Bears need to hear." Mama Bear sighed and said, "These are beautiful sounds. This viola is *just* right!"

2. Listen to the viola play Capriccio in C Minor, Op. 55 by Henri Vieuxtemps while while you color the picture below.







"Now it's your turn Baby Bear," said My Strow. Baby Bear said, "Can I try the cello? I really liked it when Papa Bear played it. I try and growl as low as can " So, Baby Bear sat down and My Strow brought a small cello over for him to try. As Baby Bear tried playing the cello he said, "Well, maybe this isn't the one for me. The cello sounds a little too low for me. I

don't want to try the double bass because My Strow said, that the double bass is the lowest of all the stringed instruments." "And" said Macorow "You might want to grow a little bit taller before you try playing a bass."

My Strow thought for a minute then said, "Leastry a violatike your mom." My Strow brought over a violation you artrial the violation d, "like the high sounds more than the low sounds wis viola makes."

"Well," My Strocchaid, "Major you scould by the biolin! I thin I have one that is your size." A coroughto or a little winin. My brow hid Boo Bear put the biolin under regian and tretcher out his arm. The polar regid by his brist. "Oh not! haid Marca Bear, Is it too small." No not at all!" And My Itrix "A bigger willin world make Baby Bear tired when he blays. This end of the violin that they his naw is caned the scroll. Baby har's paw should much just flittle past to scroll. It means this violin is the right for him!" Baby Bear reied the bow on the strings and heard the high sources "Oy," Baby Bear and, "This one has high notes! I love it so much!" Pape Bear and Nama Bear looked at each other and smiled. Baby Bearlooked at My Strow and said, "This violin is *just* right!"

My Strow made sure they had rosin and cleaning cloth in their cases. "Well," said Papa Bear, "We all have our instruments now. Thank you for your help, My Strow!" "Glad I could help out," said My Strow. Then, the three Bears picked up their cases and headed home. "Hopefully our porridge is cool by now," said Mama Bear. "I'm starving!" said Baby Bear. "You are always hungry," said Papa Bear. The three bears sighed happily. They were headed home to practice and everything was *just* right!

THE END

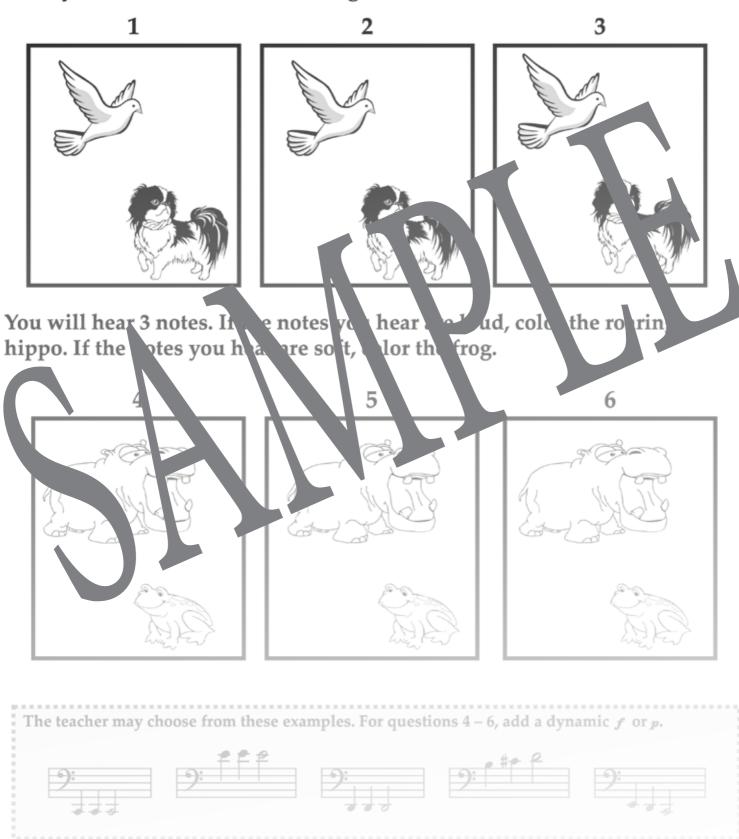
2. Listen to the violin play Caprice Op. 1, No. 5 by Niccolo Pagani while you color the picture below.



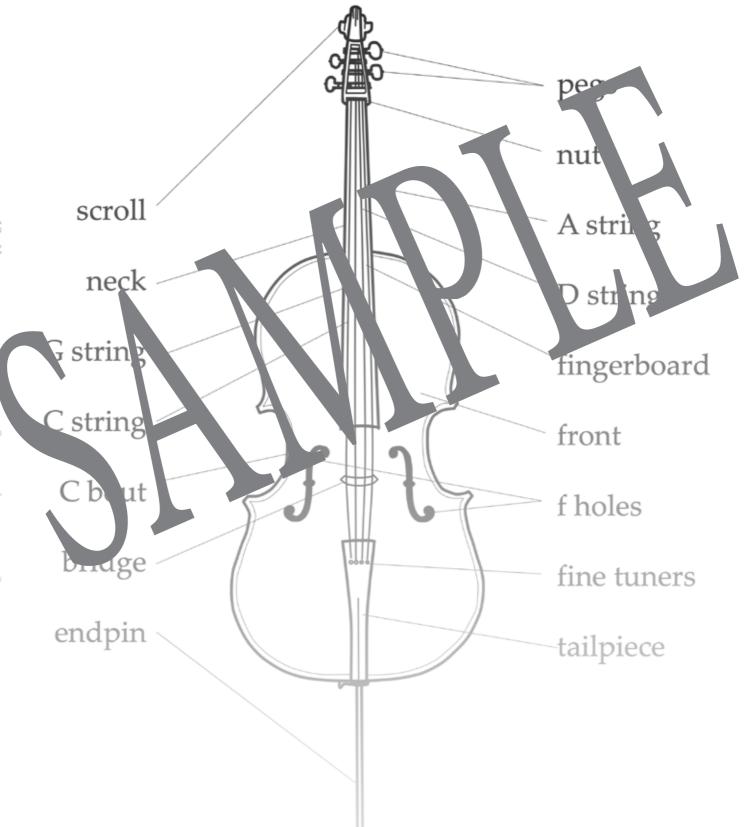




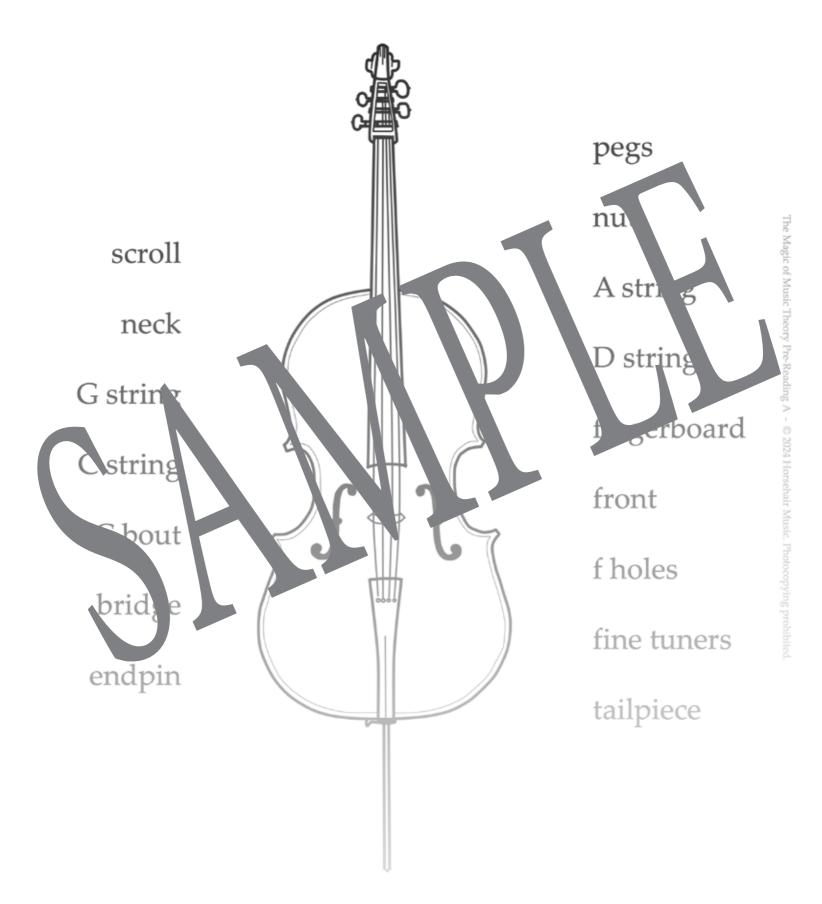
You will hear 3 notes. If the notes you hear are high, color the bird. If the notes you hear are low, color the dog.



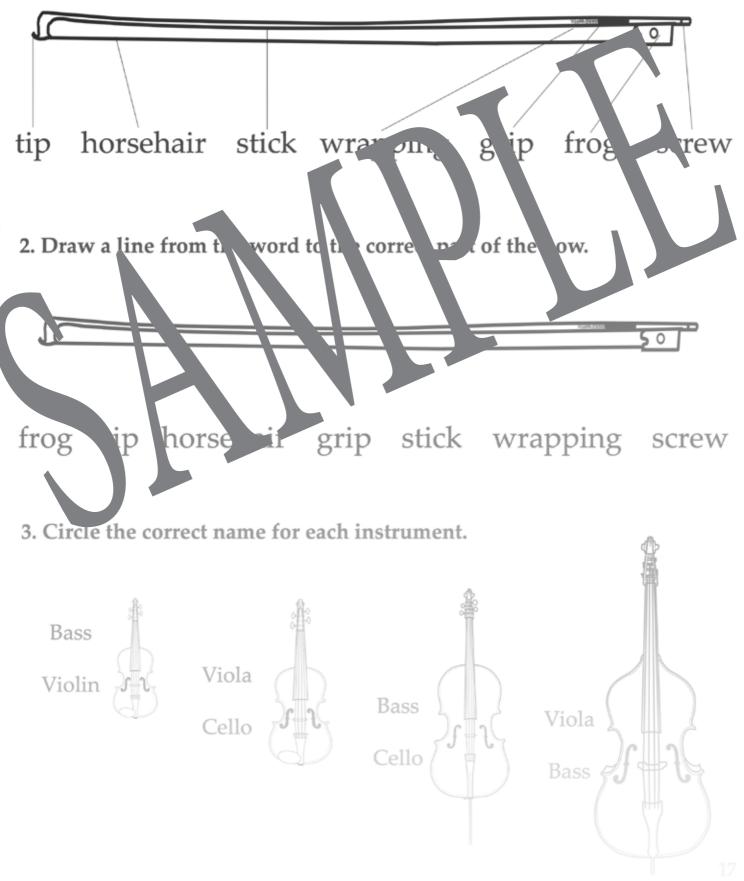
1. Point to each part and say its name. Using your cello, point to each part and say its name.



2. Draw a line from the word to the correct part of the cello.



1. Point to each part of the bow and say its name. Using your bow, point to each part and say its name.

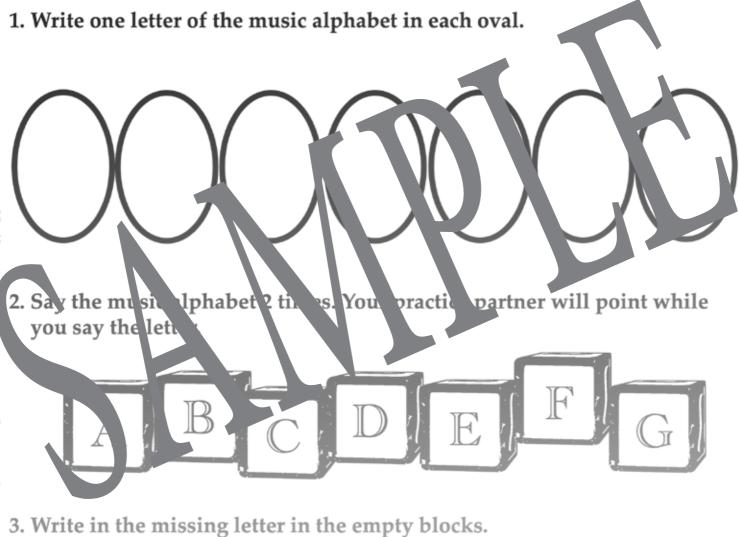




2. Listen to the double bass play Iberique Penisulaire by Francois
 Rabbath while you color the picture below.



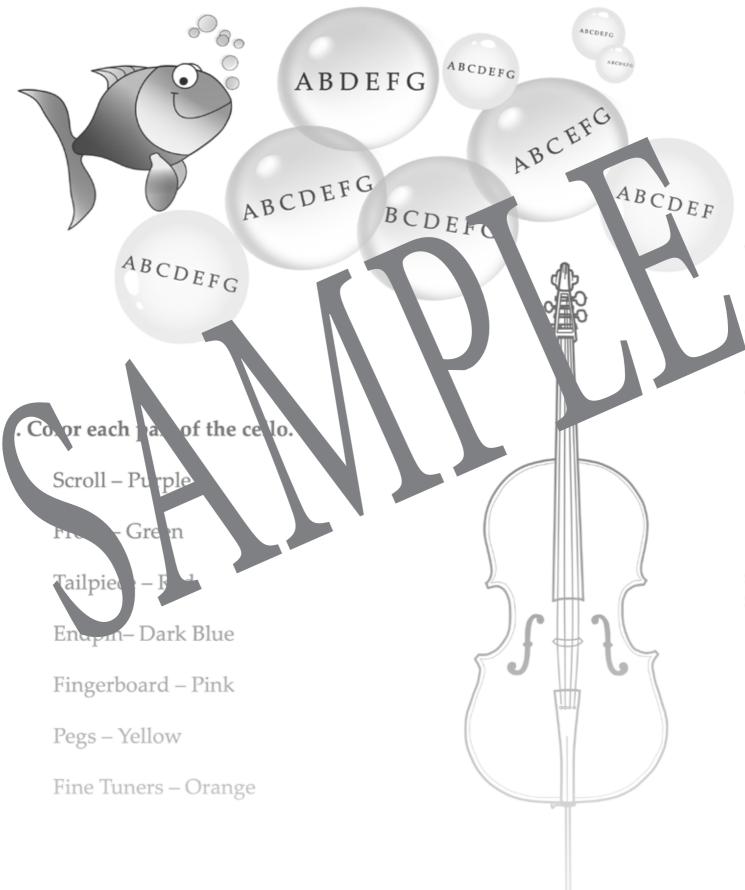
The music alphabet uses the first 7 letters of the English alphabet. There is no H in the music alphabet! When we get to G we start over at A.

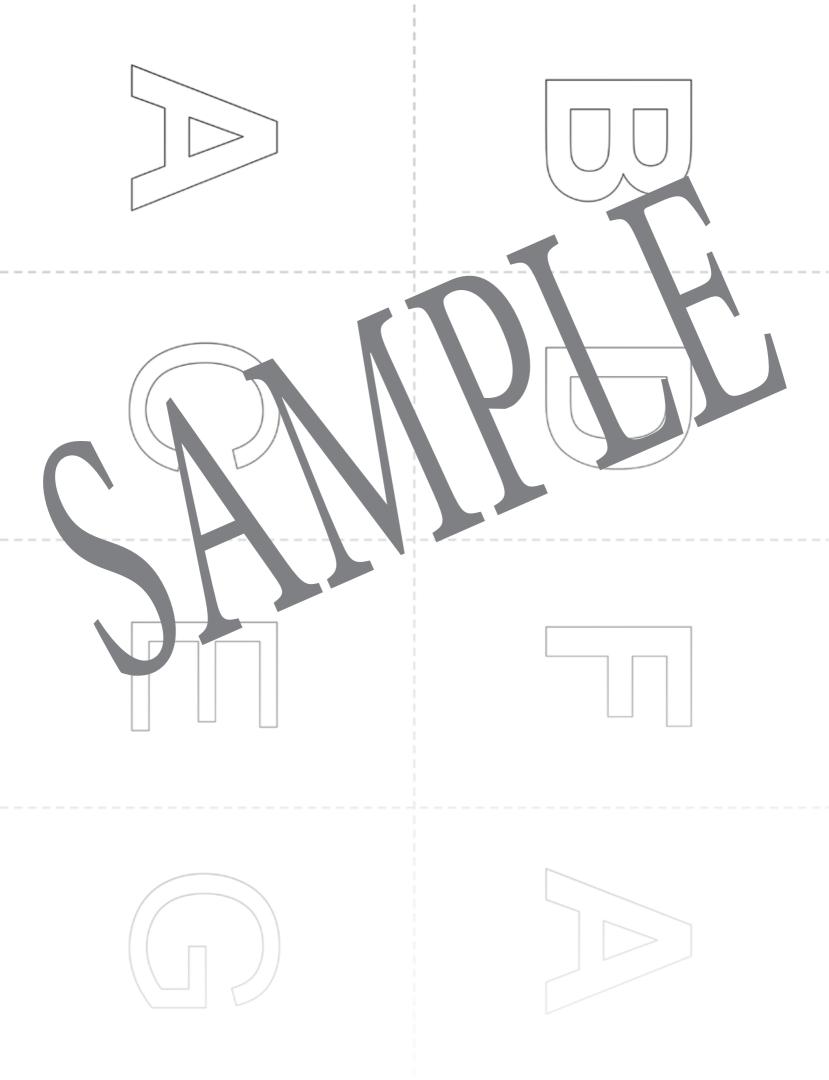






4. Draw an X through the bubbles that have the wrong music alphabet.







Music Alphabet Card Games

2 Players – Student and Practice Partner or Teacher

What you need:

Tear out page 21 Cut the along the dotted lines.

Alphabet Mix-Up

• If ix all the chars up as do ave the undent put he alphabe at the convect order.

Who I: M. sing?

- Plancae ords in front of the student in order. Have the surfact or their eyes while the teacher/practice part er turn are card face down.
 - Then the student opens their eyes and identifies the hidden etter.

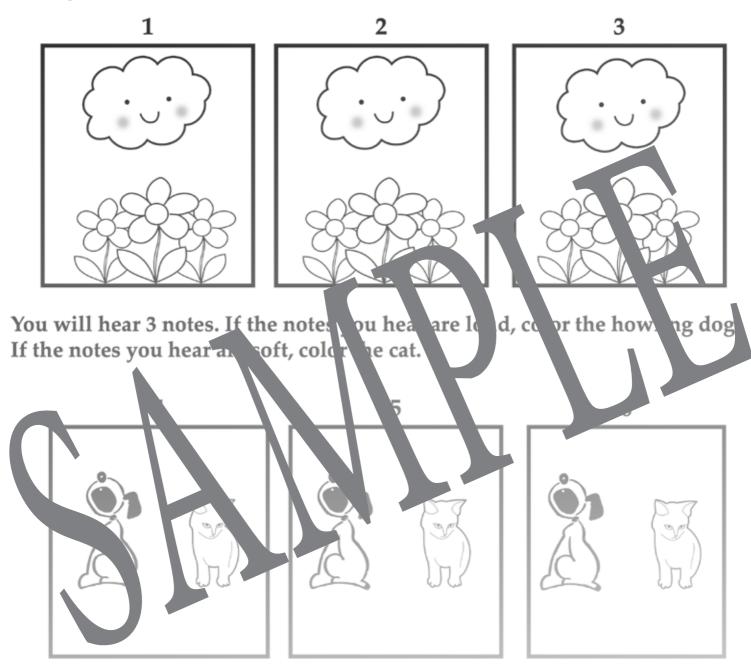
Find the Neighbors!

- Place all the cards face up, mixed up to the side.
- The teacher/practice partner chooses one card and places in front of the student.
- The student must find and place the neighbor alphabet cards on either side of the give card.



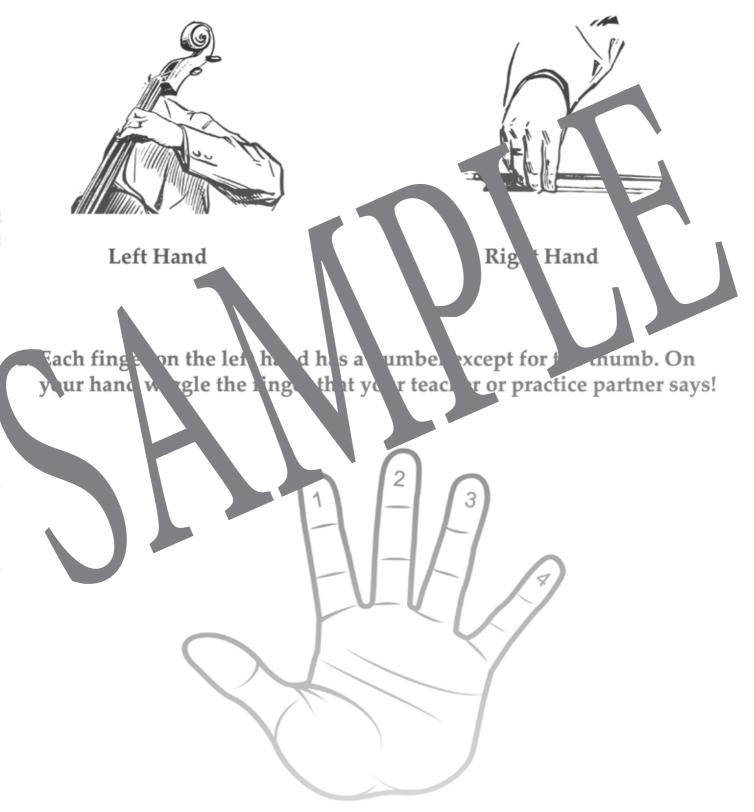
What do you hear? #2

You will hear 3 notes. If the notes you hear are high, color the cloud. If the notes you hear are low, color the flowers.



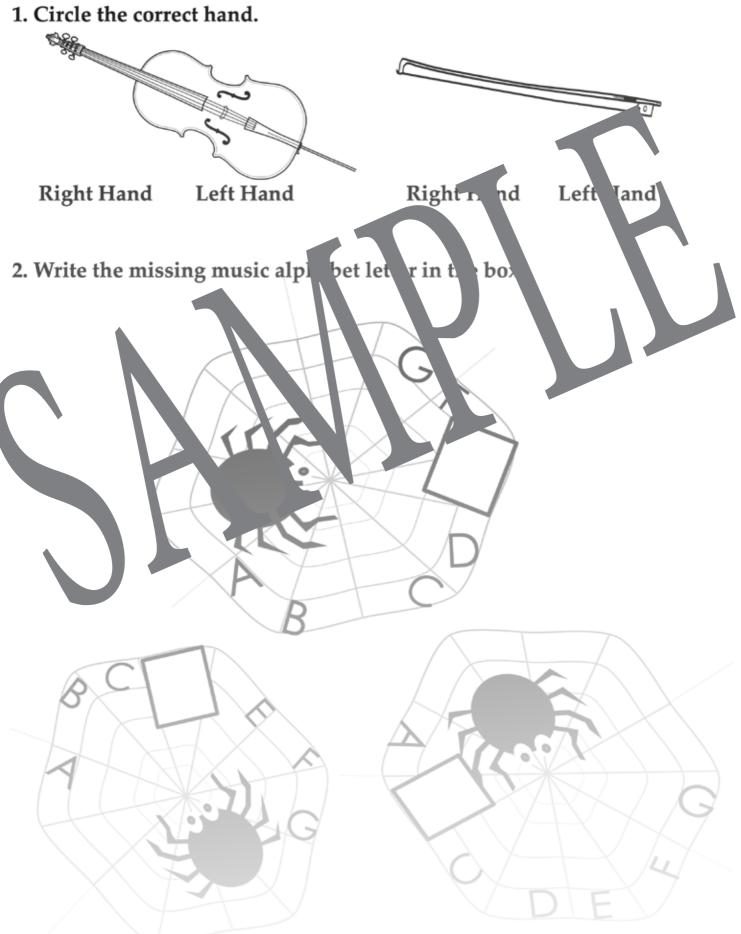
The teacher may	choose from these exa	mples. For questio	ns 4 – 6, add a dyna	mic f or p.
	9:	9:	9:	

1. The fingers on the left hand touch the strings, and the fingers on the right hand hold the bow.



3. Place a pom-pom on each item in the vending machine. Use the finger on the tag below each item and gently pick up the pom-pom between the thumb and correct to place it in the tray at the bottom.





Did you know that the music alphabet lives on the cello? Each string has a letter name from the music alphabet. The string on the left is C. The C string

is the lowest sounding string. Next to the C string is the G string. It sounds a little higher than the C string. The D string is next to the G string and the D string is higher than the G string. The A string is on the far right, and it makes the highest sound of all the strings on the cello.

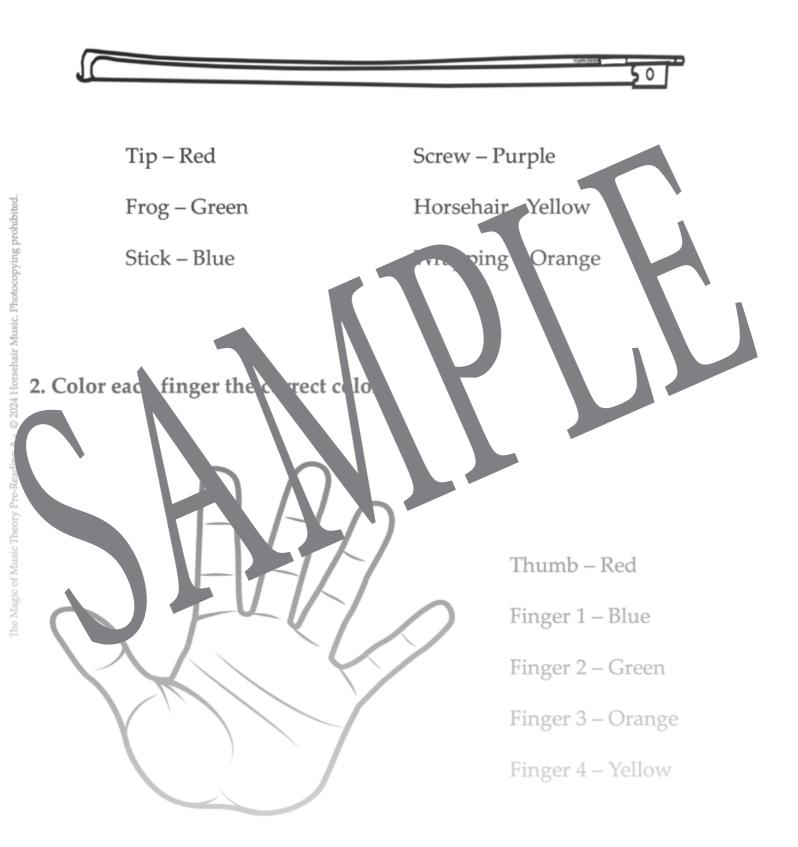
3. Write the letters the correct house.

The string makes the lowest sound on the cello. Play a Twinkle pattern on the open C string.

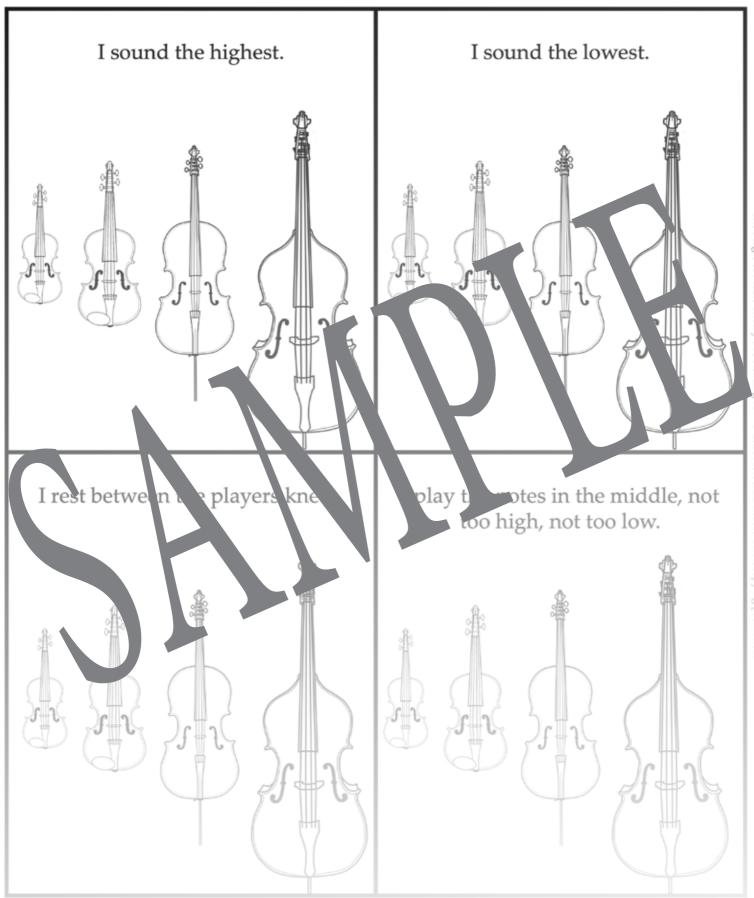
5. The A string makes a high sound on the cello. Play a Twinkle pattern on the open A string.

Did you hear that the A string was higher that the C string?

1. Color each part of the bow the correct color.

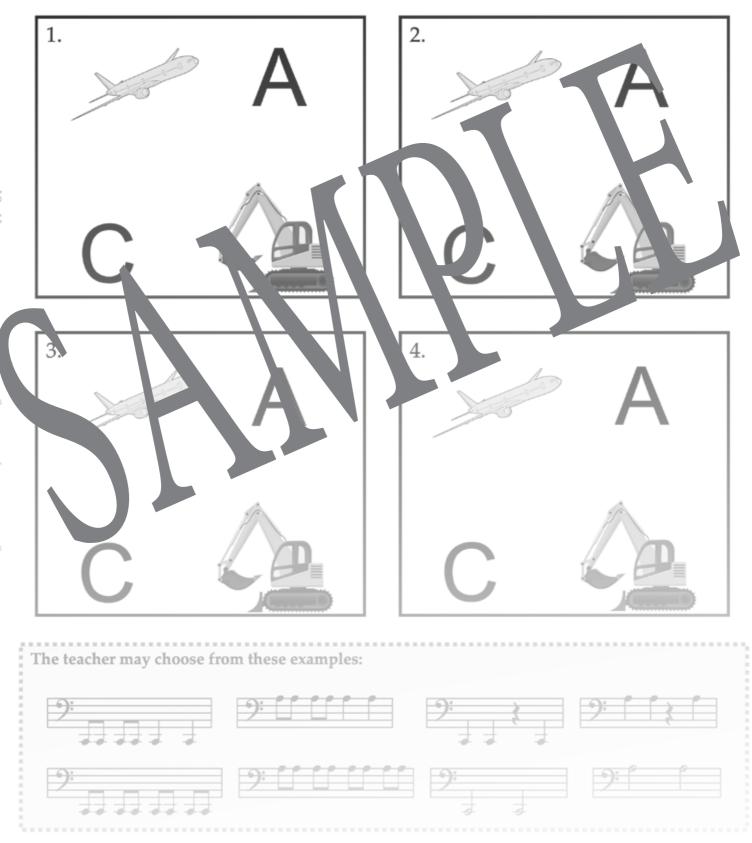


3. Circle the instrument that matches the sentence.

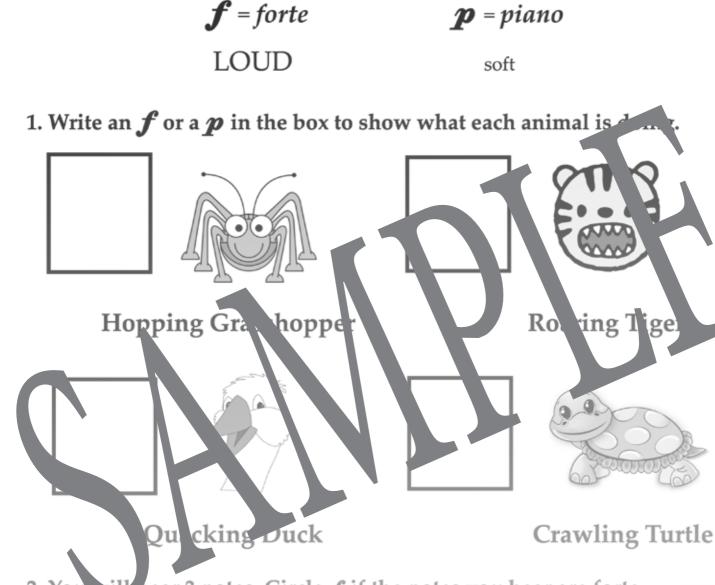




If you hear low C string, circle C. If you hear the high A string, circle A.

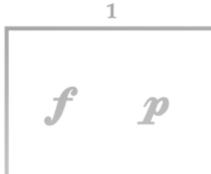


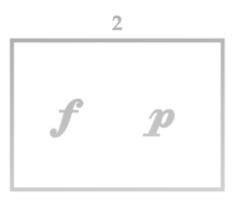
Dynamics tell us the volume, how loud or soft, to play. In music the dynamics are written using Italian words. In Italian, **forte** [for-tay] means loud and **piano** [pee-an-o] means soft. Rather than write out the whole word, we use the first letter of each word to tell us what dynamic to play.

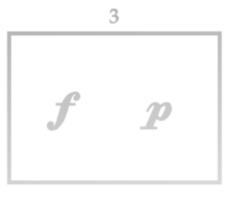


2. You fill hear 3 notes. Circle f if the notes you hear are forte. Circle p if the notes you hear are piano.



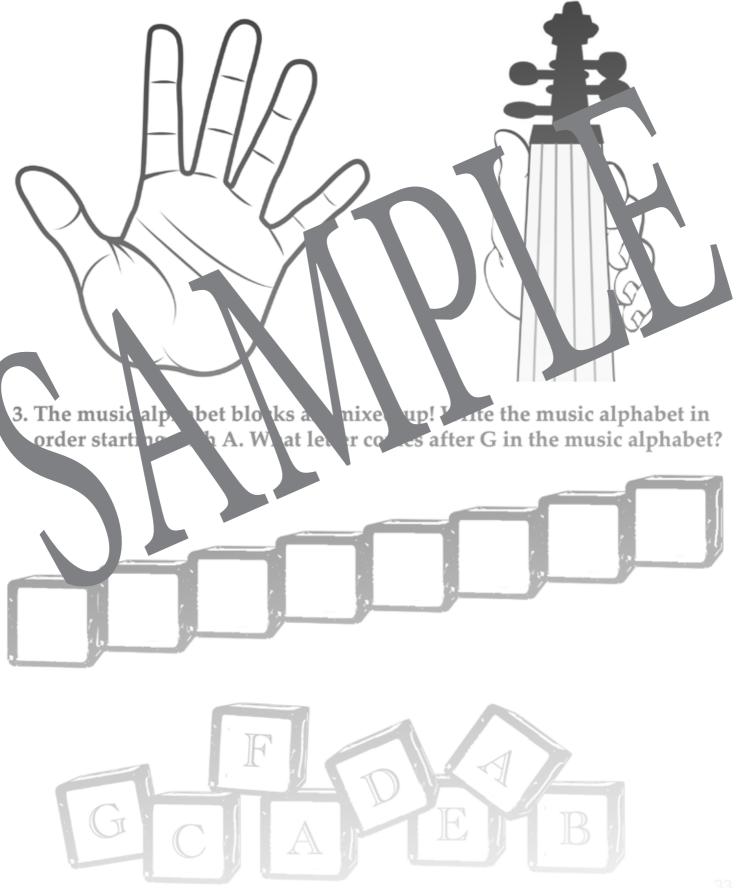




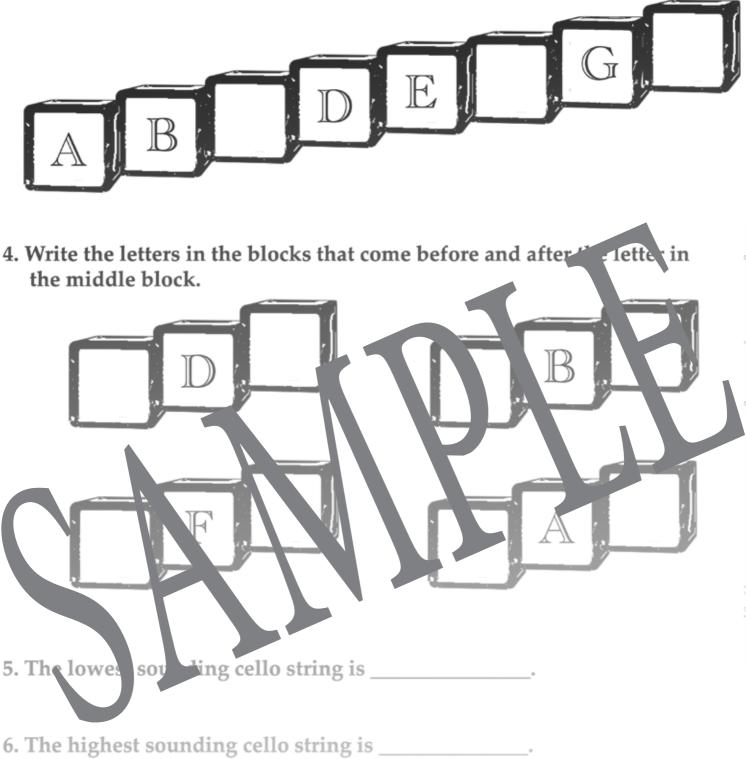


The Magic of Music Theory Pre

- 1. Write the finger numbers on each finger.
- 2. Write the finger numbers on the curved fingers.

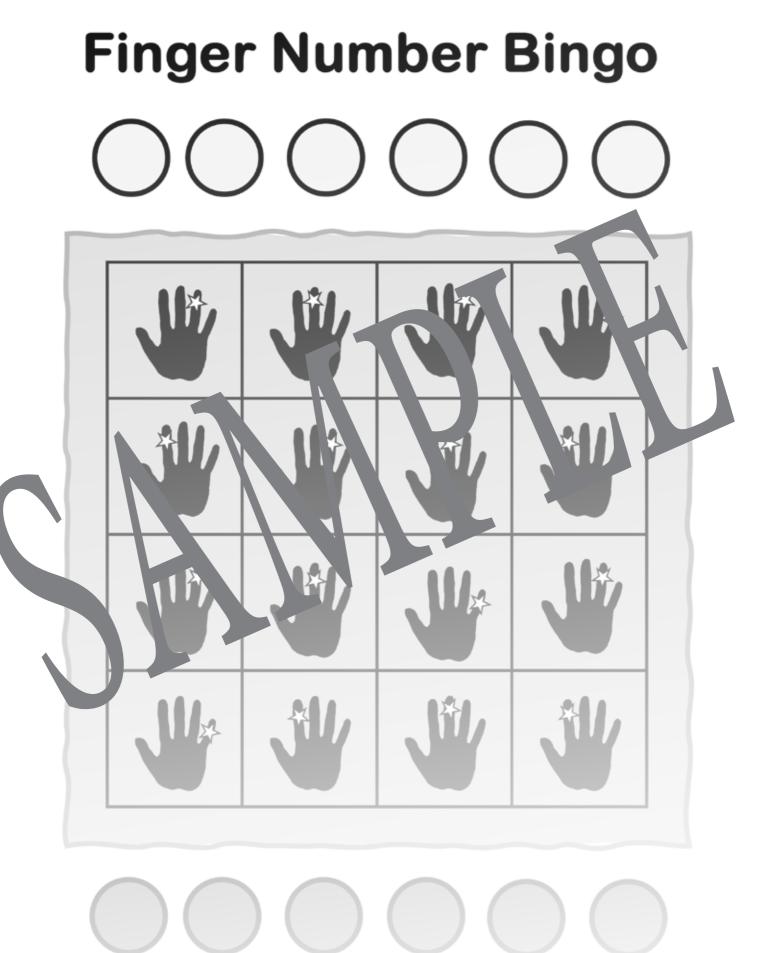


3. Fill in the missing letters of the music alphabet.



7. Draw the symbol that means loud.

8. Draw the symbol that means soft.



Finger Number Bingo

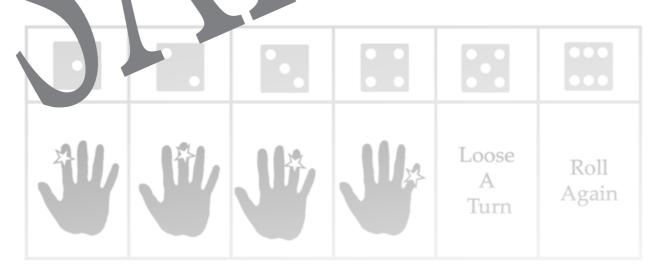
2 Players

What you need:

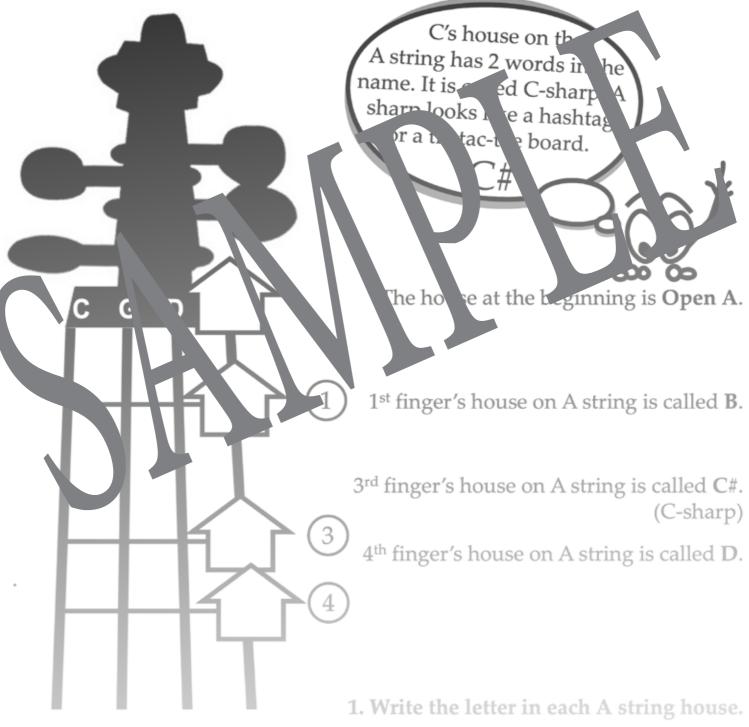
- 6 pennies
- 6 dimes
- 1 die

How to play:

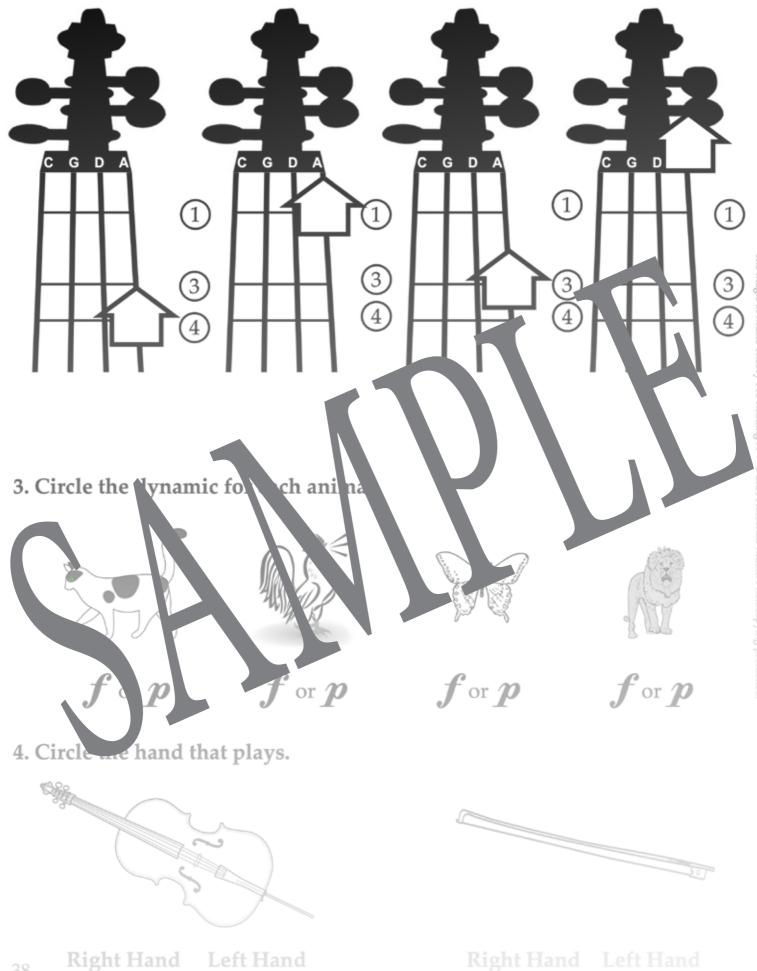
- 1. Each player chooses a type of oin to use, joinnies or di
- 2. Place all the pennies in the data circle. Place all the dim in the light circles.
- 3. Take turns 1, sing the die of you of a syou lose your turn. If you roll a 6, or u can roll, he die state.
- 4. Us g one of y u, coins, coor any ox whose file a make as the number you role d on the die.
- 5. Then h the next play r's turn
- 6. When 4 if the same color are in a row that player says "BIN 50". They are the wonner the coins can be horizontal, writical or diagonal.



Each finger on the left hand has a house on the A string. Each thin line on the fingerboard is where the finger lives. Your teacher put tapes on your cello to show where the houses are on your fingerboard. The letters go up in the music alphabet as you put fingers on the A string.



2. Write the letter in each A string house.



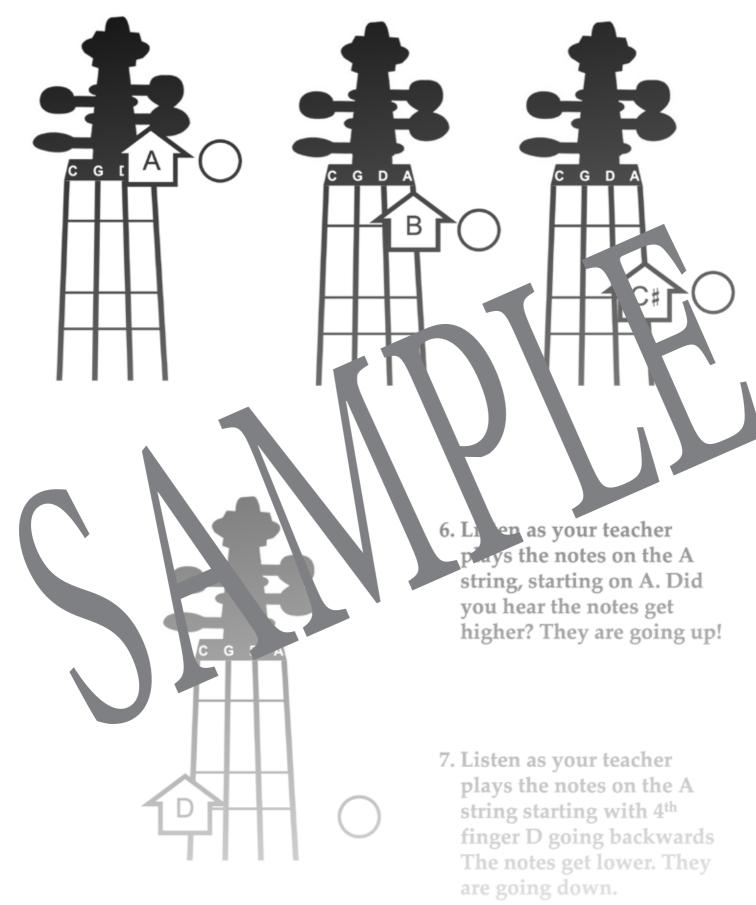
The Magic of Music Theory

1. Write the music alphabet in order in the blocks.

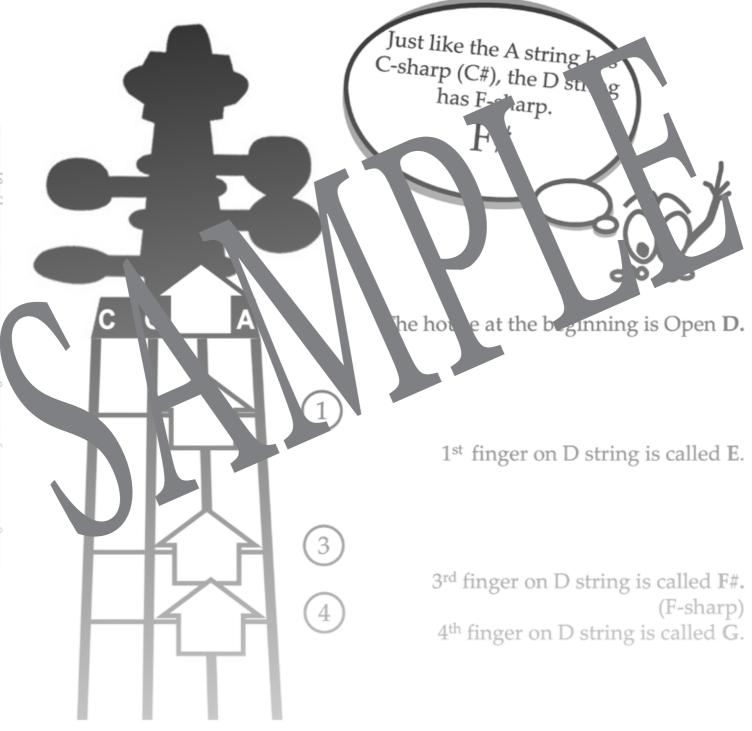
2. Sing the music alphabet song. Sing the regul inglish alp abet song, but instead of singing "H, I, J, K ... " states ver a A. Keep repativ the d of music alphabet until you get to the e so g! Did you know that we can say the music phab staring on any liter? Begin on any letter and remember the letter A co nes afi G! Stop of the same letter that you sta d with. oint to e. letter and s. the music alphabet starting a ending on B. G F 4 4. Point to each letter and say the music alphabet starting and ending on D.



5. Write the finger number in the circle that plays the note on the A string.



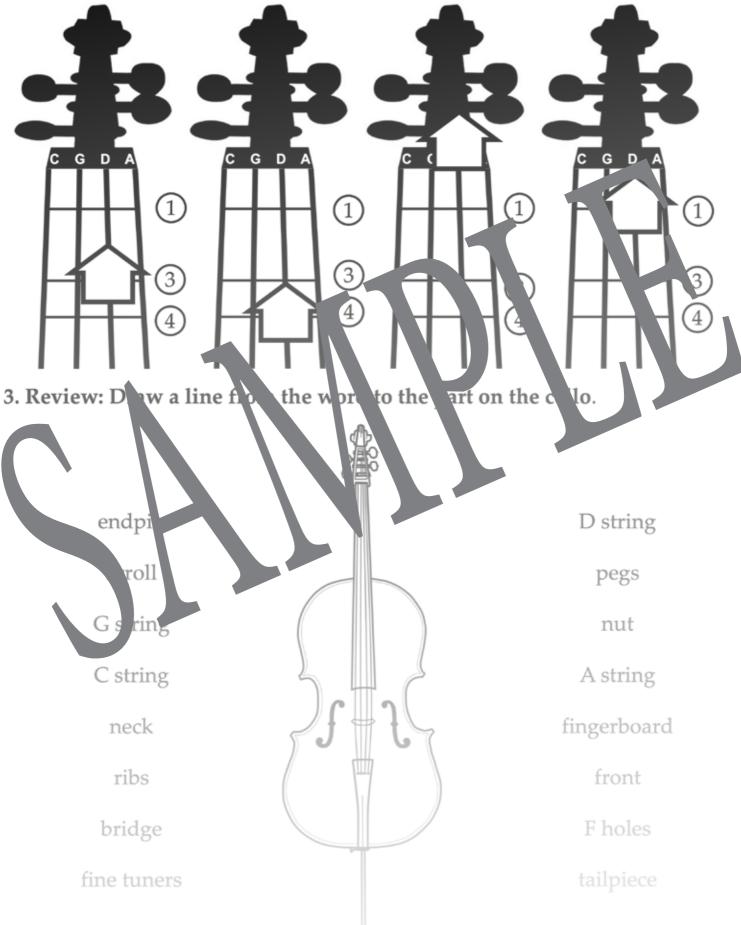
Each finger on the left hand has a house on the D string. The house letters are different on the D string than on the A string. The houses on the D string go up through the music alphabet starting on D.



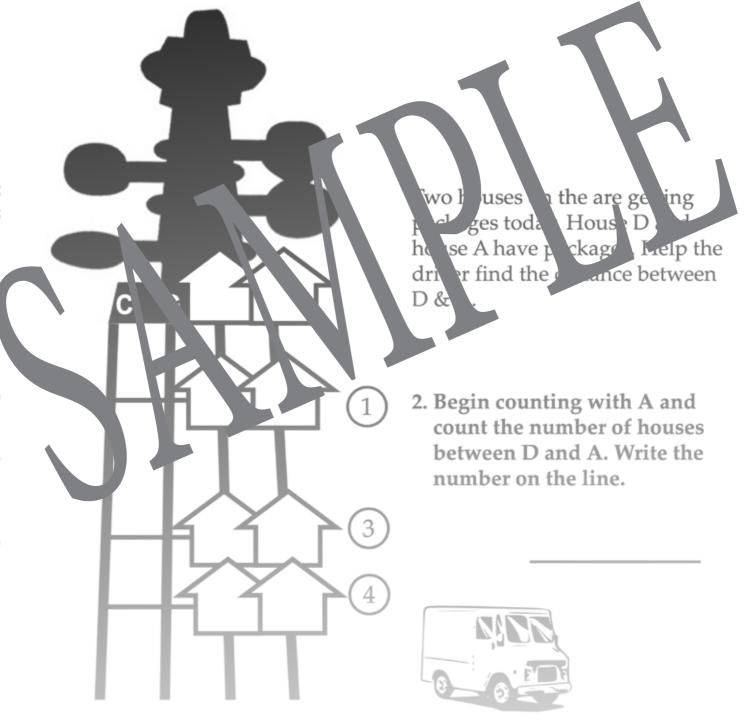
41

1. Write the letter in each D string house.

2. Write the correct letter in each D string house.



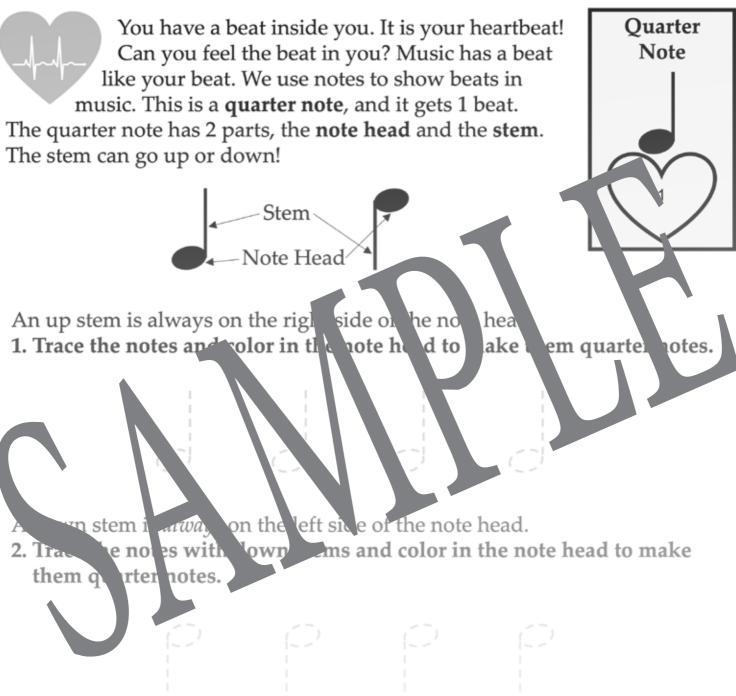
1. Fill in all the house letters on the D string and on the A string. Don't forget to write a sharp by the letters F# and C#.





Help Sally Squirrel know if it is a D or an A acorn. Circle the name of the string you hear.



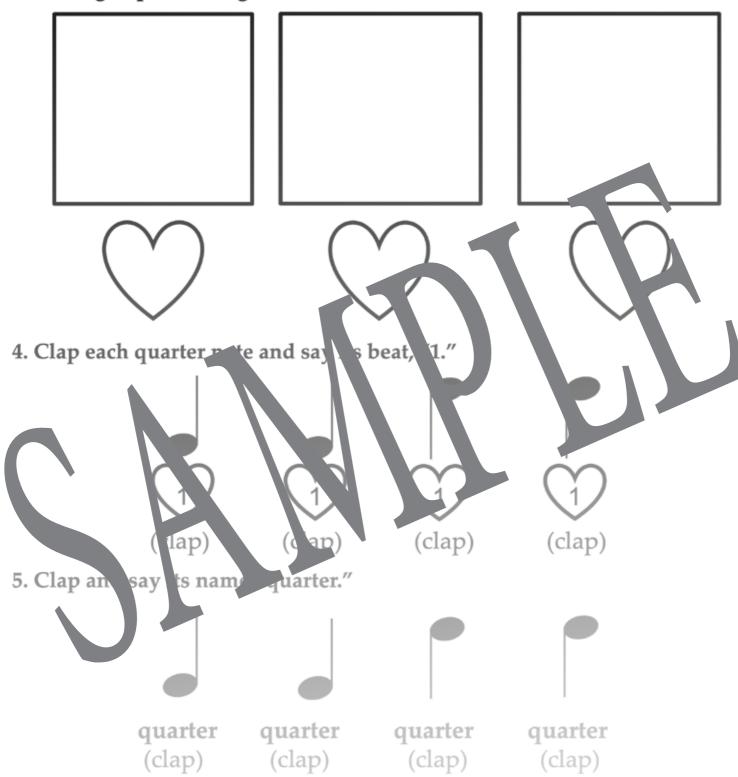


To draw a quarter note, draw a circle. Color it in. Then, draw a stem going up on the right side, or down on the left side.

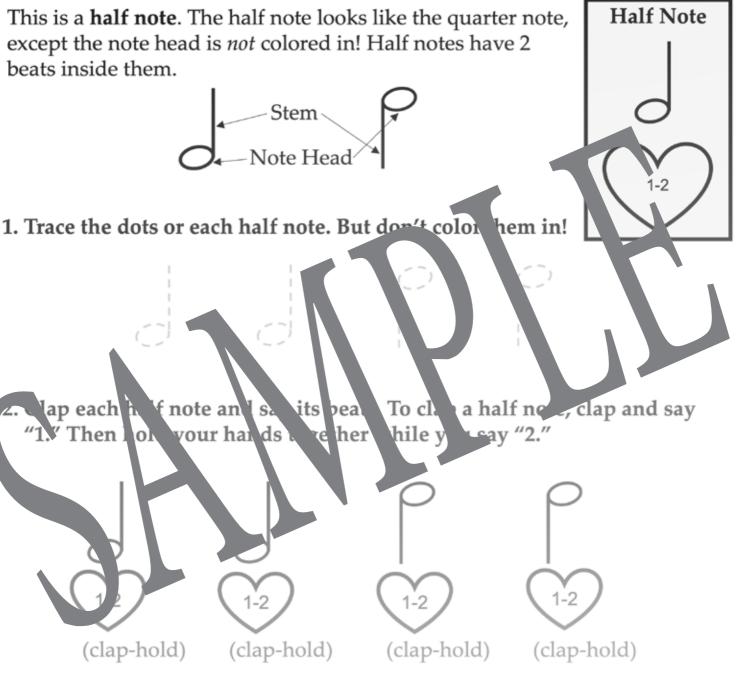




3. Draw a quarter note in each box. Then, in the heart write a 1 for the quarter note beat. You may choose an up or down stem. (Remember stems go up on the right, down on the left.)



6. On the line write how old you are in quarter notes.

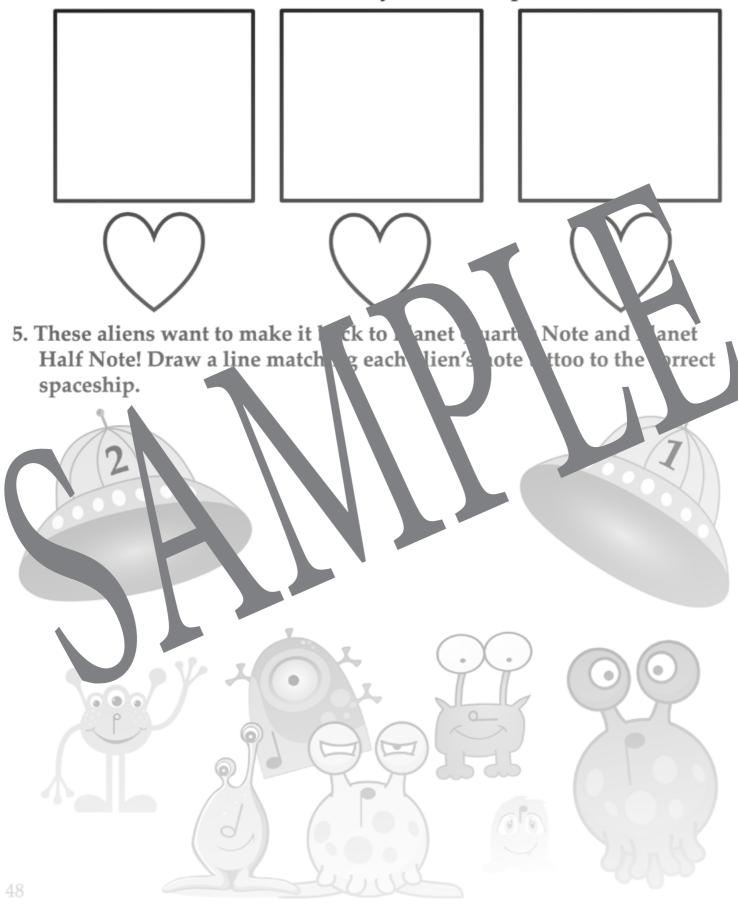


3. Clap each half note and say its name. Clap 1 time when you say "half." Then hold your hands together while you say "note."



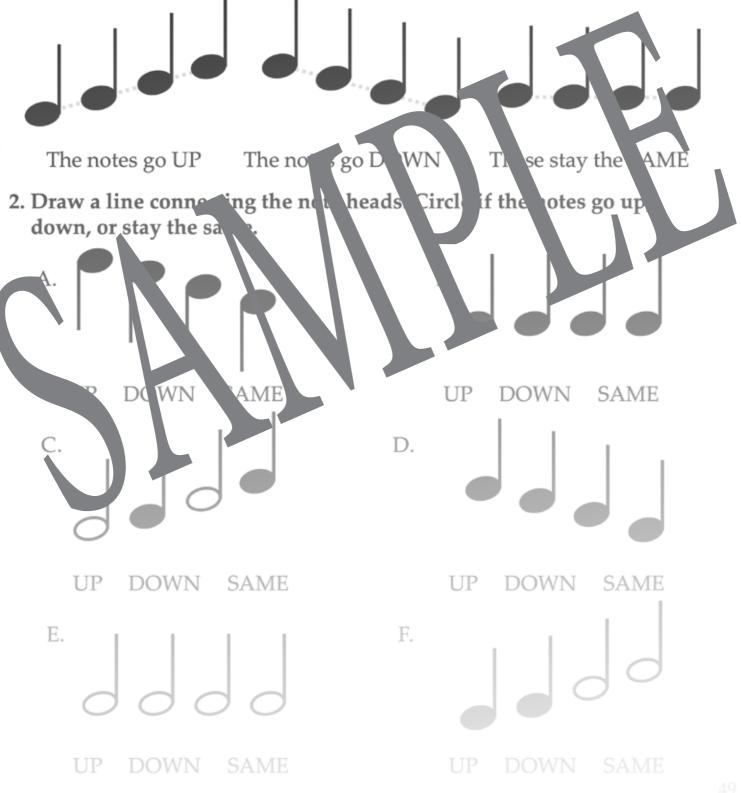
Draw half notes just like quarter notes, but don't color in the note head!

4. Draw a half note in each box. Then in the heart underneath write a 1-2 for the half note beats. You may choose an up or down stem.



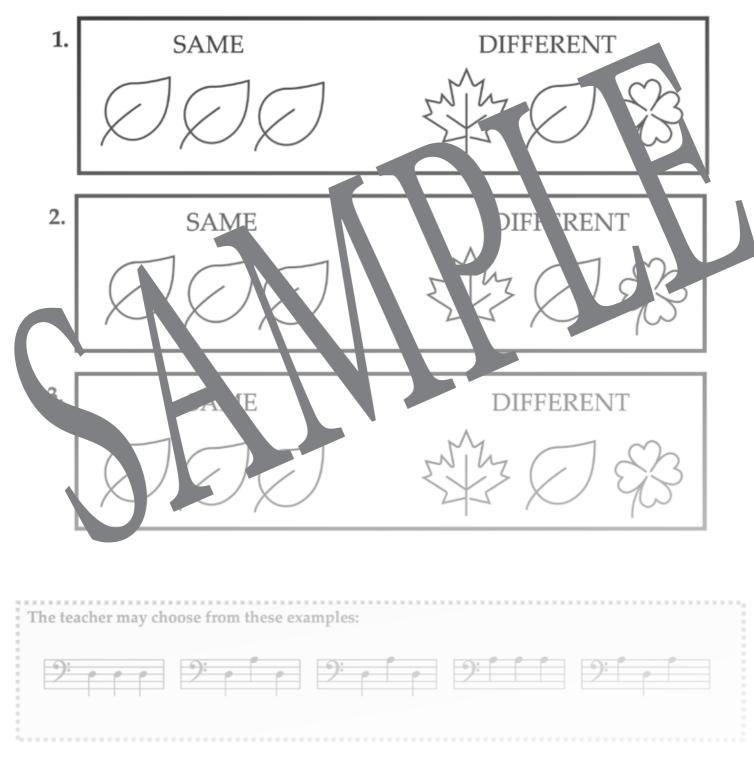
We read the notes from left to right just like we read words in a book. As the notes get higher on the page, the sound will go up. As the notes move lower on the page, the sound will go down. If the notes do not go up or down but are in a straight line, they will sound the same.

1. Trace the line from one note head to the next note head.





You will hear 3 notes. If you hear the same note 3 times, color the leaves that are the same. If you hear 3 notes that are different, color the leaves that are different.



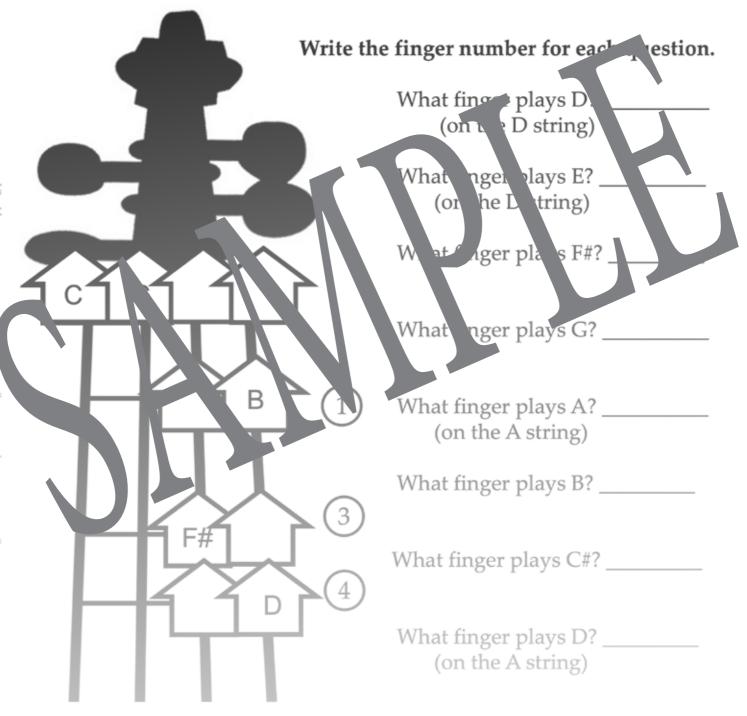
1. Write the beats for each note in the hearts. Then, circle if the notes are moving up, down or staying the same.



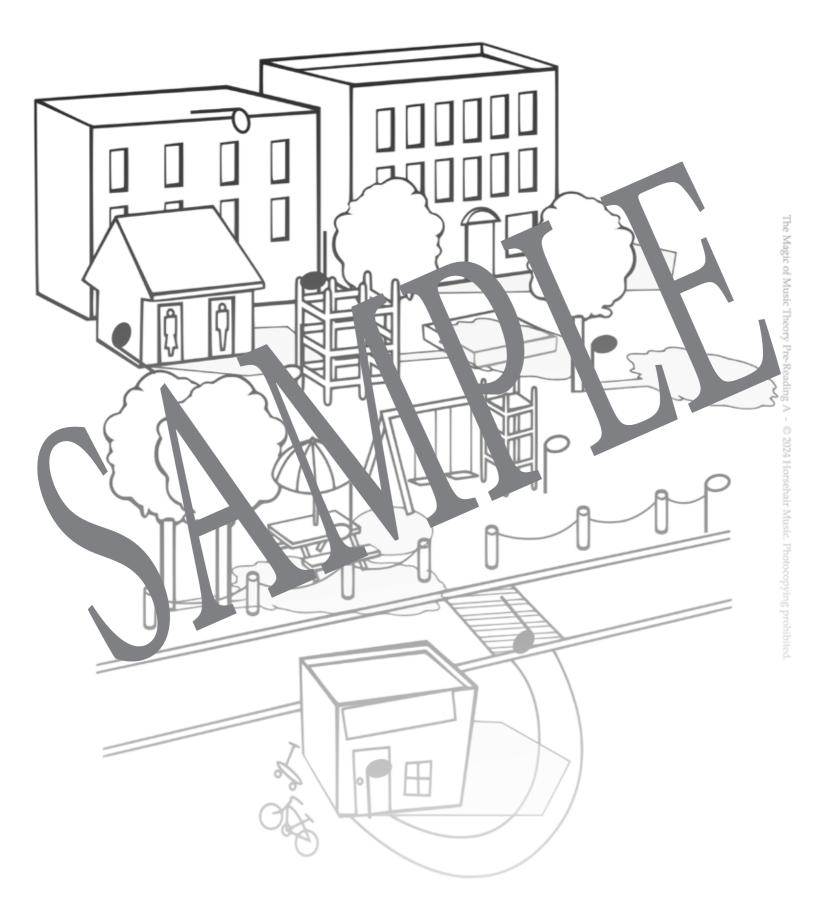
4. Farmer McDonald needs to get his pigs to the correct barn. Draw a line from the note on the pig to the barn where it lives.

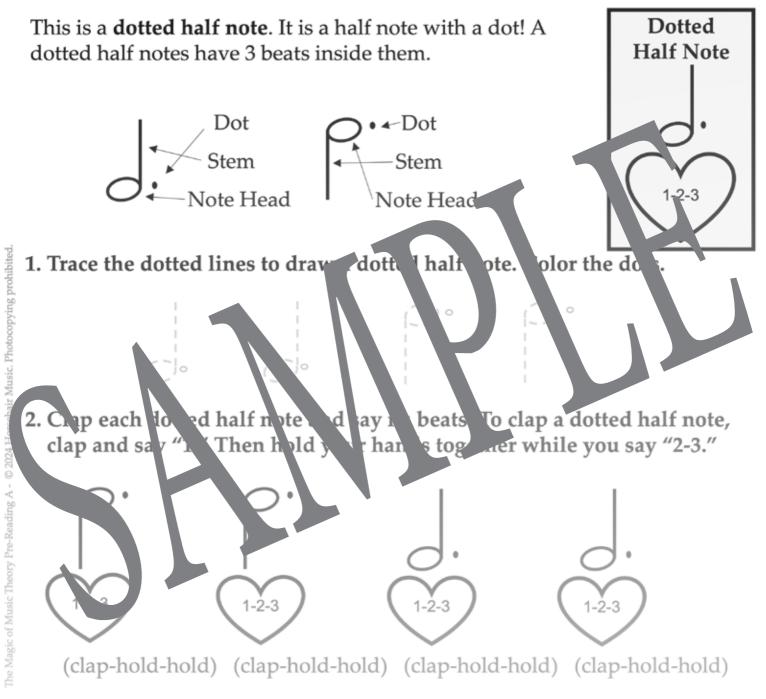


1. Write the missing letters in each house on the fingerboard.



3. Can you find the hidden notes? Circle the quarter notes. Draw a square around the half note.





3. Clap each dotted half note and say its name. Clap 1 time when you say "half." Then hold your hands together while you say "note-dot."



3. Write the number of beats for each note in the hearts.

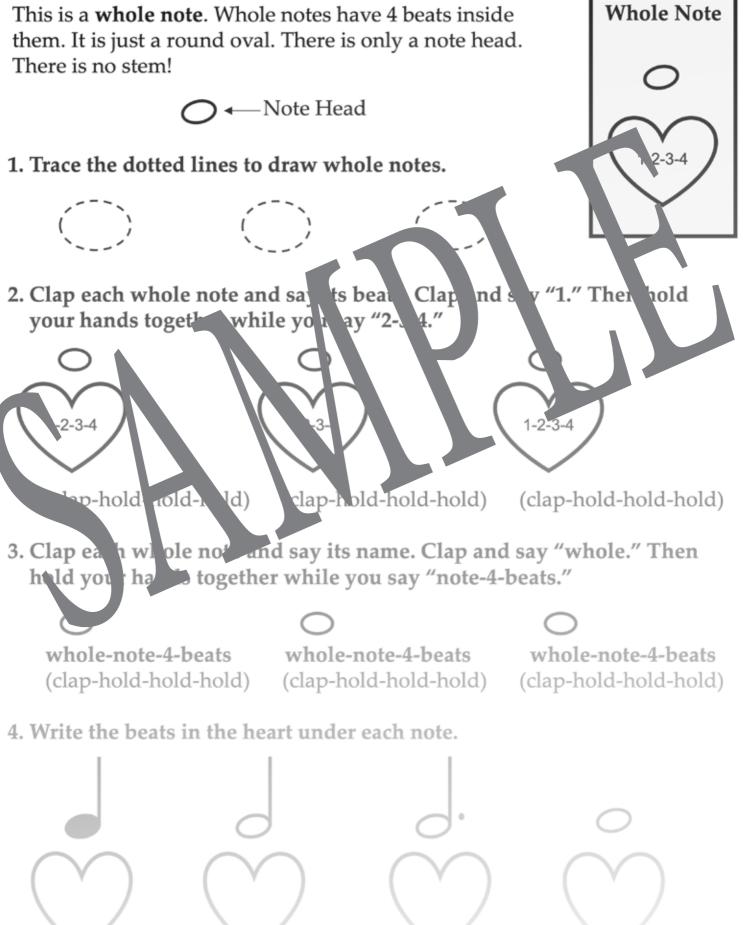


4. Draw a note in the hat that equals the number of beats in the beart.



5. Clap the notes and say their beats. Then clap and say their names.





57



5. Let's go snorkeling! Snorkel your way through and circle if the notes move up, down, or stay the same.

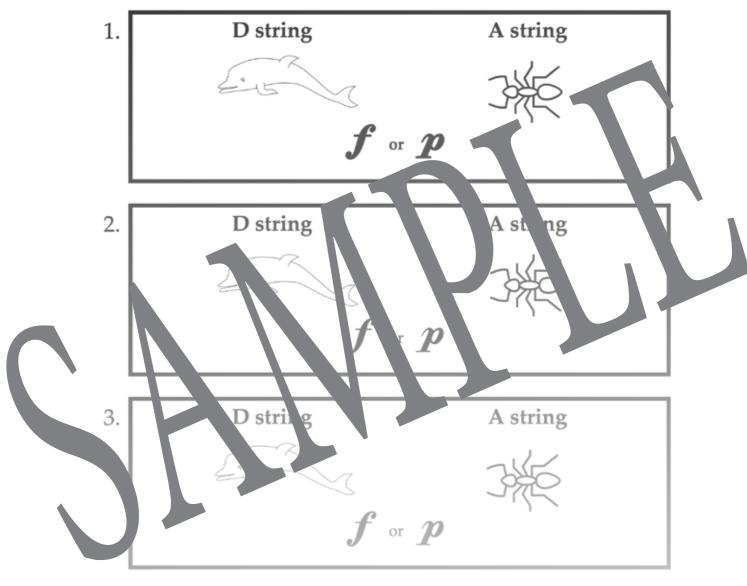
1. Say the name of the insect and clap each syllable. Write the number of claps in each heart. Then draw the note in the box that equals the number of beats.

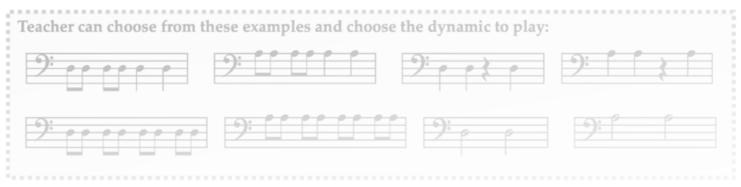




What do you hear? #6

Color the dolphin if you hear your teacher play the D string. Color the ant if you hear the A string. Then, circle whether you hear forte or piano.





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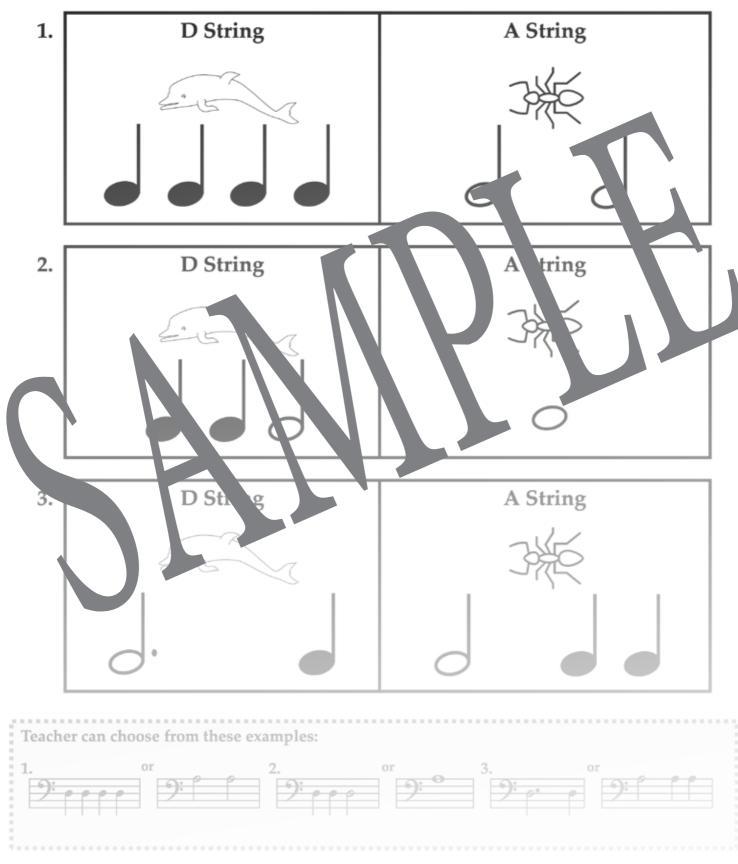
There are some unusual pets living in the fingerboard houses. Draw a line matching the first letter of the animal's name to the house with the same letter.





What do you hear? #7

Circle the box that you hear.



A & D Apple Orchard

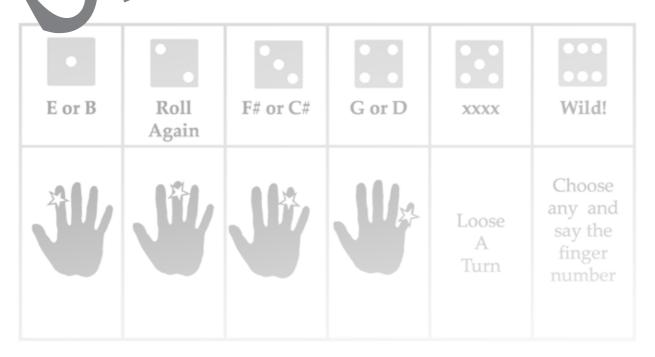
2 Players

What you need:

- 5 pennies
- 5 dimes
- 1 die
- 2 cups

How to play:

- 1. Each player chooses the ype of country wants o use, per vies or dim s.
- 2. Place your coins in pile or cop near the game bo
- Take to us rolling the lie. The number that you roll on the die equal a finger number. Place one conjour coins on an apple letter that is played, by the larger number on the finger loard.
- 4. The first player to place all his coins on the tree wins.
- 5. It you coll and chere is no letter that matches that finger, the next clayer takes a turn.





REVIEW

1. Write the letters for each open 2. Draw a quarter note in the box. string in the house. a ha f note in the box. Dra 4. Draw a datter half note in the box. 5. Draw a whole note in the box.

6. Circle the symbol that means loud! 7. Circle the symbol that means soft!



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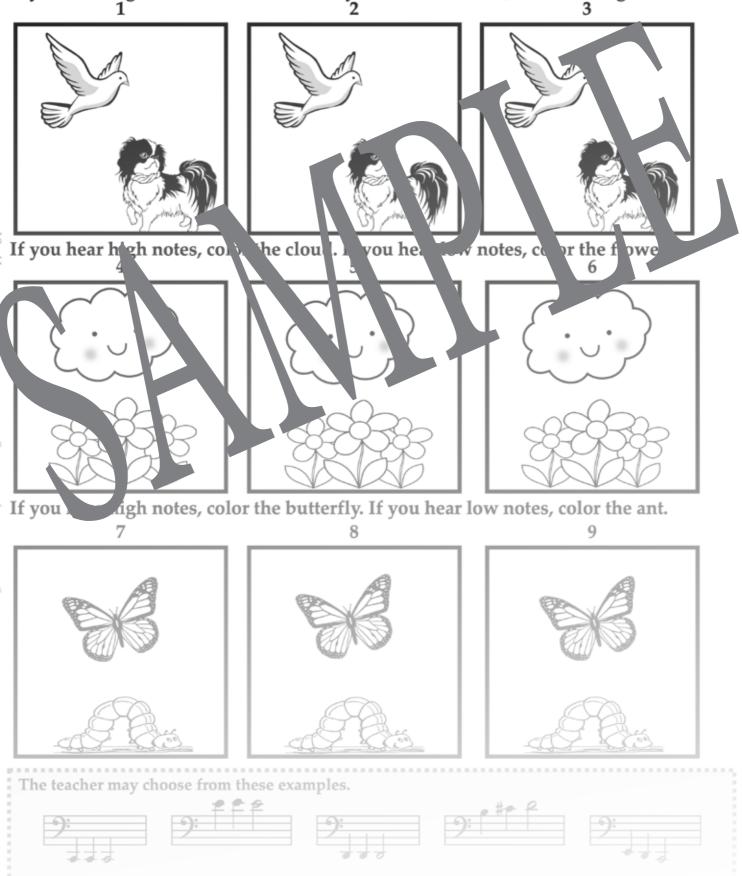


Glossary

- A String Highest string on the cello.
- **D** String Second string from the left on the cello.
- **Dotted Half Note** Gets 3 beats in 4/4 time.
- Forte [dynamic] Italian word meaning loud.
- Half Note Gets 2 beats in 4/4 time
- Music Alphabet First seven at ters of the End ish a phabet.
- Piano [dynamic] Ita . h word minning .
- 😒 larter Neu Gets 1 beau 14/4 tin
- Whole Note G & 4 beat, in 4, ime.

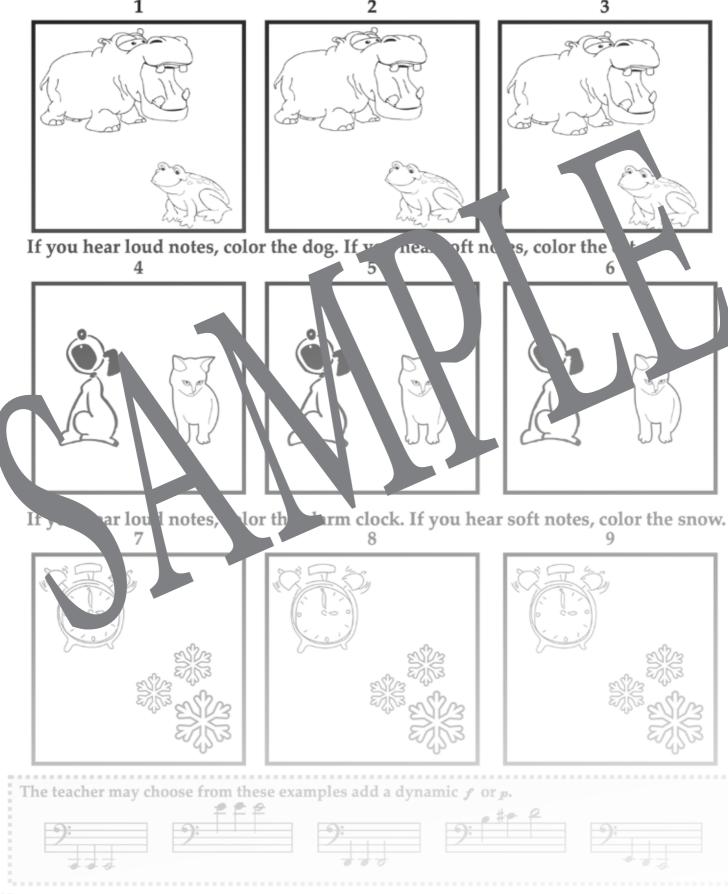
Extra Ear Training Practice A High or Low

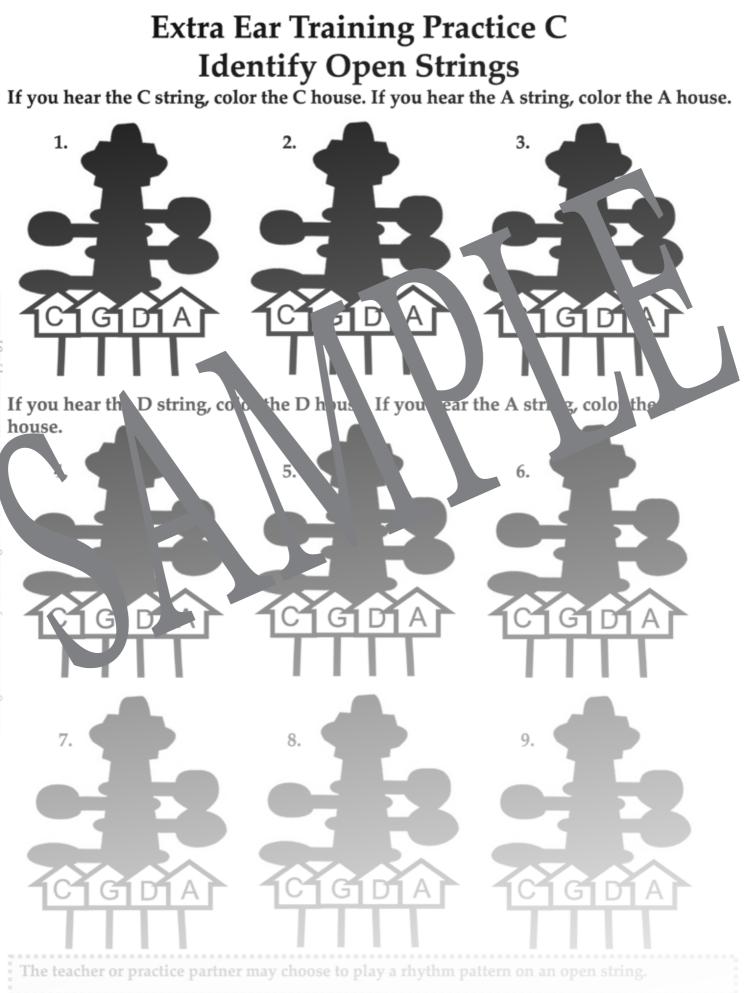
If you hear high notes color the bird. If you hear low notes, color the dog. $\frac{1}{2}$



Extra Ear Training Practice B Loud or Soft

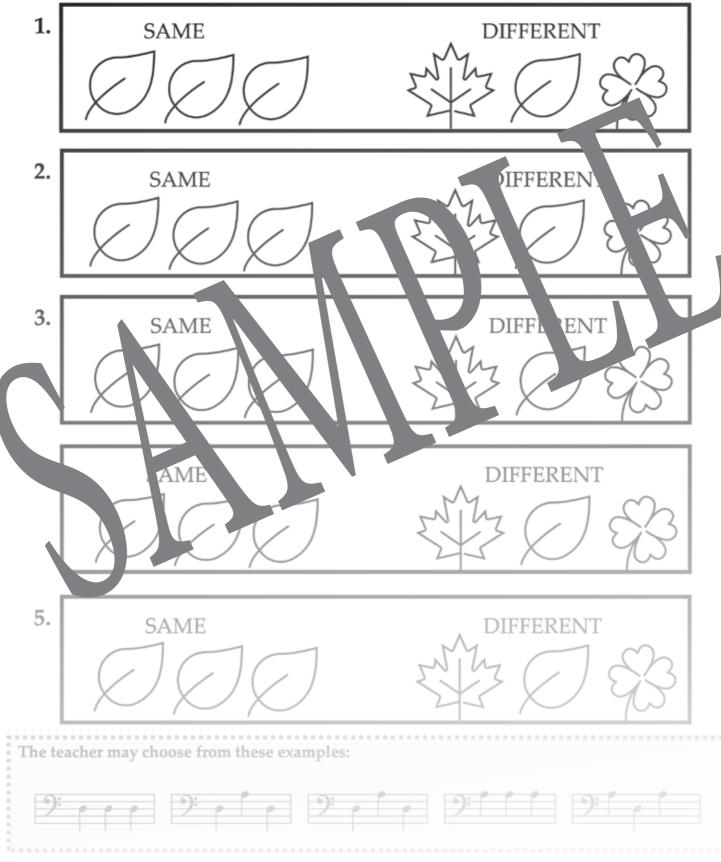
If you hear loud color the roaring hippo. If you hear soft notes, color the frog.





Extra Ear Training Practice D Same or Different

If you hear the same note 3 times, color the leaves that are the same. If you hear 3 notes that are different, color the leaves that are different.



Extra Ear Training Practice E A or E & forte or piano

Color the dolphin if you hear the D string. Color the ant if you hear the A string. Then, circle whether you hear forte or piano.

