



# Rock and Roll

## Key Artists and Works:

The Beatles



The Beatles were an English rock band formed in Liverpool in 1960, comprising John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. They are regarded as the most important rock band of all time and made popular music into an art form for the first time.

All of The Beatles song that you will perform were written by Paul McCartney and John Lennon in 1963. They chose to write songs in the style that was very popular in the USA. As a result, "She Loves You" is a record breaker, as it was the first song to sell 1 million copies in the UK and I Want to Hold Your Hand was then, the second song to do so! No other song sold as many copies as She Loves You, during the whole of the 1960s. The Beatles made chart history again in 1964 by holding the top five spots in the USA at the same time. Two of those five songs were "I Want to Hold Your Hand" at #4 and "She Loves You" at #3.

In 2006, as a sign of respect for The Beatles, another very successful British band Take That, recorded a medley of these two songs with a third song, A Hard Day's Night, which was another record breaker. It was the first song to top the charts in the UK and USA at the same time, in 1964.

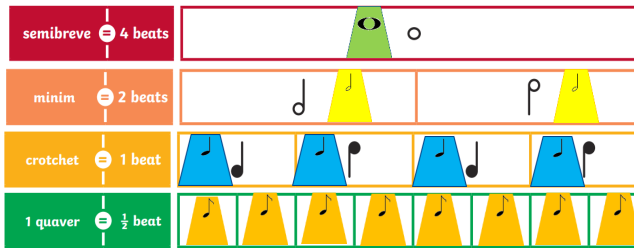


These are the notes in the scale of C. A scale of eight notes is called an octave.



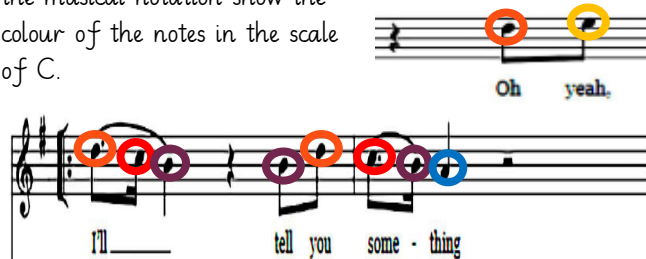
## Key Knowledge: Notation

The Beatles' songs are written as music with notes in staves. In musical notation, there are symbols that tell us the duration of the notes. Duration means how long something takes. Each symbol tells us to sing a note for a different duration and how many beats it lasts. So, notes can have different lengths. Duration also includes rests, when you do not sing. At the beginning of a song's stave is a time signature. The time signature shows how many beats are counted in a bar. Most music counts in beats of 1,2,3,4, like all three songs in The Beatles' Medley.



## Key Skills

Below are the first three bars of I Want To Hold Your Hand by The Beatles. The coloured circles over the top of the musical notation show the colour of the notes in the scale of C.



## Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
time signature	The time signature of a piece of music shows how many beats are in each bar. It's written at the beginning of the stave.
pitch	how high or low the sound you hear
ensemble	groups of people who perform at the same time
rhythm	the recurrence of notes and rests (silences) in time. When a series of notes and rests repeats, it forms a rhythmic pattern
medley	A song composed from parts of existing pieces played one after another
octave	A scale of eight notes
harmony	the sound of two or more notes heard simultaneously
treble clef	A musical symbol used to indicate which notes are represented by the lines and spaces on a stave.
crescendo	when music is getting louder, shown by the symbol
decrescendo or diminuendo	When music is getting quieter, shown by the symbol
stave	a set of five horizontal lines and four spaces that each represent a different musical pitch