

## Piano Star Theory Posters

Download four posters for your pupils to complete. There is one each for Rhythm, Pitch, Dynamics, and Articulation and other signs.

- Print onto card and have pupils complete the poster with the correct answers. Why not laminate the cards and keep for reference.
- Use the posters as starting points for some creative activities.

**Rhythm rocket:** Compose a space piece. Have pupils say and clap some space words or phrases e.g. *astronaut, space ship, 'blast off into space'*. Can pupils write the rhythm that matches the words and phrases? Use the rhythm of these words to write a piece.

**Pitch picture:** Play the note race games. These games help pupils to identify notes on the piano and in a piece of music. *Game 1.* Point to any note on the poster and ask pupils to find and play that note on the piano as quickly as they can. One point for each correctly played note. *Game 2.* Choose any piece of music and call out a note name and value e.g. 'middle C minim'. Pupils have to find and point to the named note on the music as quickly as possible. How many notes can your pupil correctly find in 1 minute? Swap over, pupils can name notes for the teacher to find.

**Dynamic Dinosaur:** Play the loud and quiet sounds game. An aural activity to help pupils identify loud and quiet sounds. Get pupils to listen as you play loud then quiet sounds on the piano. Ask them to make a sign such as stretching arms in the air when they hear loud sounds and crouch down low when they hear quiet sounds. Alternate between playing loud and quiet phrases. Get pupils to listen and make the appropriate sign as you play.

Have pupils make up a piece on the piano using different dynamics. Suggest a title e.g., *Dinosaur footsteps* or *Tyrannosaurus stomp*.

**Articulation Avenue:** Play the 'Smooth cat spiky hedgehog game': An aural activity to help pupils identify smooth and detached sounds. On the piano play a few bars of legato/smooth sounds, ask pupils to make a sign with their hand similar to stroking the fur on a cat! Then switch to playing staccato/ detached sounds ask pupils to make a sign with their hands like the spikes on a hedgehog! Alternate between playing legato and staccato phrases. Get pupils to listen and make the appropriate sign as you play.

Have your pupils add slurs or staccato dots to a suitable piece in their piano book or to one of their own compositions.

Have fun!