

MUSIC · GRADES 4–6

# Compose a Melody

An 8-bar piece, all yours

## Three ingredients

Every melody combines: 1) PITCHES — the note names (C, D, E, F, G, A, B). For now, stick to C major (no sharps or flats). 2) RHYTHMS — long and short notes. Mix whole, half, quarter and eighth notes. 3) PHRASING — usually 4 bars per phrase, ending on a 'resting' note (often C, the home note).

## Step by step

1. Pick a TIME SIGNATURE — start with 4/4 (4 quarter-note beats per bar).
2. Decide your STARTING NOTE — most melodies start on C, E or G.
3. Plan your RHYTHM first — clap an 8-bar rhythm before adding pitches.
4. Add PITCHES — try going up for the first phrase, down for the second.
5. End on C — most melodies sound 'finished' when they return to the home note.
6. Sing or play your melody. Adjust anything that sounds wrong.



**8-bar template**

Draw 8 bars on staff paper. Add notes one bar at a time. Don't aim for perfect — aim for FINISHED.

