



KEY SIGNATURES

A **key signature** tells the musician which notes are to be played as sharp or flat in a piece of music.

- A total of 7 sharps and 7 flats are possible for the 7 letters of the musical alphabet (A, B, C, D, E, F, G).
- Key signatures have either sharps or flats but not both at the same time.
- A key signature is always written on the staff in the same place and in the same order.

ORDER OF SHARPS & FLATS

The **ORDER OF SHARPS** from left to right in a key signature is:
F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#, and B#.



Use the sentence below to help you memorize the order of sharps.

Father Charlie Goes Down And Eats Breakfast:

The **order of flats** from left to right in a key signature is:
Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb and Fb.



Use the sentence below to help you memorize the order of flats.

Breakfast Ends And Down Goes Charlie's Father:

**** THE ORDER OF FLATS IS EXACTLY THE ORDER OF SHARPS, BUT BACKWARDS! ****

NOW ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON THE BACK.

NAME: _____



KEY SIGNATURE PRACTICE

1. A _____ tells the musician which notes are to be played as sharp or flat in a piece of music.
 2. A total of _____ sharps and _____ flats are possible for the _____ letters of the musical alphabet.
 3. Key signatures have either _____ or _____ signs but not both at the same time.
 4. A key signature is always written on the staff in the same _____ and in the same _____.
 5. What is the sentence that helps you remember the **order of sharps**?
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6. The **order of sharps** from left to right in a key signature is:

___ # ___ # ___ # ___ # ___ # ___ # ___ #



7. What is the sentence that helps you remember the **order of flats**?
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8. The **order of flats** from left to right in a key signature is:

___ # ___ # ___ # ___ # ___ # ___ # ___ #

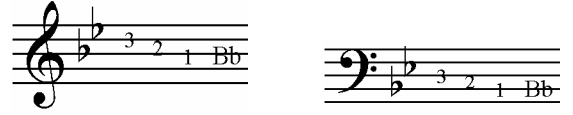


NAMING KEYS

The name of the **key of a song** is the same as first note of the scale having that key signature. **Use these rules below for determining what key the song is based on.**

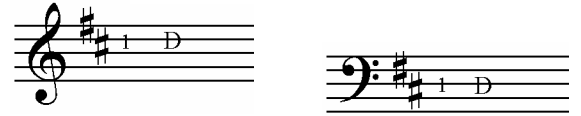
- For **flat keys**, the next to last flat is the name of the key **OR** count down three lines and spaces from the last flat to the right.

Example: Key of Bb Major



- For **sharp keys**, count up one note from the last sharp to the right.

Example: Key of D Major



- The key of **C** has no sharps or flats.

CHECK-UP: Using the information from above, answer the questions below.

- The name of the _____ of a song is the same as the scale having that key signature.
- Write the rule for finding names of sharp keys:

- Write the rule for finding names of flat keys:

- The key of _____ has no sharps or flats.

Treble clef instruments:

5. key of _____

7. key of _____

6. key of _____

8. key of _____

Bass clef instruments:

5. key of _____

7. key of _____

6. key of _____

8. key of _____