



## MAJOR SCALES

A **major scale** is a sequence of **8** notes in ascending and descending order. (They move alphabetically going up and down.) Like a “musical ladder,” each step is the next consecutive note in the key.

**Example ~ C Major Scale: C D E F G A B C**

*\*This 8 note distance between notes is an interval of an octave.\**

There are 12 different major scales. Scales provide composers with the tonal building blocks used in the composing of melodies and harmonies. Singers sometimes use syllables “do re mi fa sol la ti do” to sing a scale.

do	re	mi	fa	sol	la	ti	do
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
do	re	mi	fa	sol	la	ti	do

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Write the letters alphabetically for each scale below. The 1<sup>st</sup> letter has been given.

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

2. A major scale is made up of \_\_\_\_\_ notes.  
(number)

3. A scale moves \_\_\_\_\_ by step.

4. A scale moves from a note with one letter name to a note 8 notes higher with the

\_\_\_\_\_.

5. The 8 note distance or interval is called an \_\_\_\_\_.

6. The syllables sometimes used by singers for a scale are:

\_\_\_\_\_.

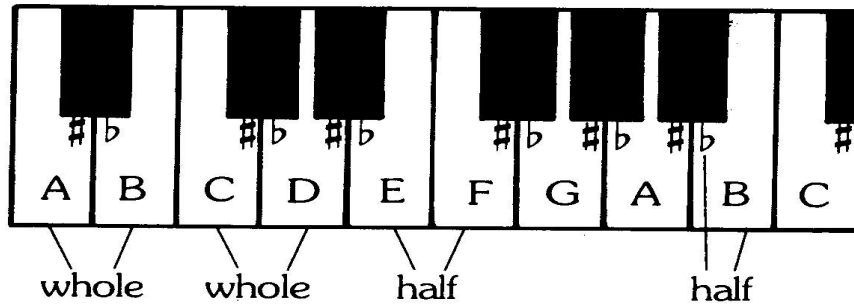
## WHOLE STEP & HALF STEPS FORMULA

The distance between two notes is called an interval.

- A **half step** is the **smallest distance from one note to the next** with **no** possible notes in between. The two notes are close neighbors
- A **whole** step interval happens when there **is** room for one note between notes.

The piano keyboard is a good way to see half and whole steps. All notes are counted in intervals, including black and white keys. Black keys are sharp & flat notes.

**\*Notice that half steps occur automatically between B & C and E & F. This is because there are no black keys in between.\***



### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Write “whole step” or “half step:”

C to D \_\_\_\_\_ step

B to C \_\_\_\_\_ step

E to F \_\_\_\_\_ step

G# to G \_\_\_\_\_ step

Db to D \_\_\_\_\_ step

Db to D# \_\_\_\_\_ step

2. The distance between 2 notes is called an \_\_\_\_\_.

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ has not room for a note in between.

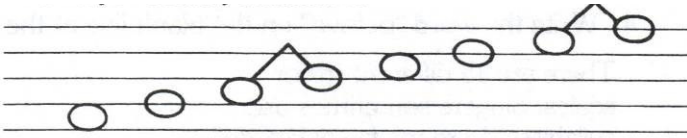
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ *does* have room for a note in between.

5. Half steps happen automatically between notes \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ and between \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.


## MAJOR SCALES HALF STEP/WHOLE STEP FORMULA

Scales are always written by using a special half step and whole step formula.

The **major scale formula** is:



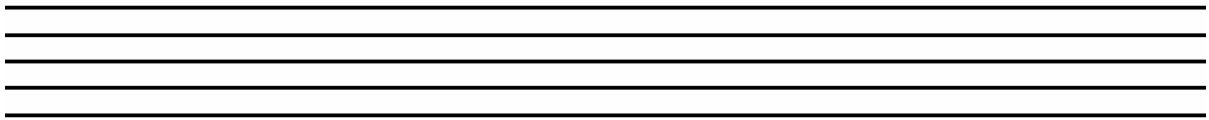
whole whole half whole whole whole half

A half step is marked with a sign like this: 

**IMPORTANT:** The half steps in a Major Scale *always* occur between the 3rd and 4th note of the scale AND the 7th and 8th note of the scale.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. On the staff below, practice writing a scale in whole notes starting on C. Be sure to draw your clef at the beginning of the staff.



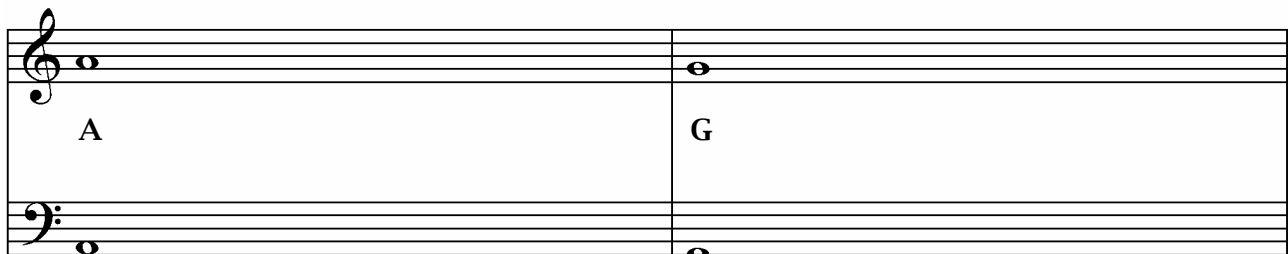
2. Write the number for each note (1 through 8) of the scale under each note.

3. Circle the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> notes together, and the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> notes together where half steps occur.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Now that you know the arrangement or pattern for a major scale, you should be able to build that scale beginning on any note on your instrument. Using the above information, complete the following tasks:

- A. On the staff below, construct two major scales in whole notes. *Don't forget to write in your accidentals BEFORE the note but AFTER the letter name.*
- B. Write the names of the notes in between the two staves. The 1<sup>st</sup> note is given for you.

Use this staff if you read treble clef.



Use this staff if you read bass clef.