

# UNIT 1

## Staff, Clefs, Notes



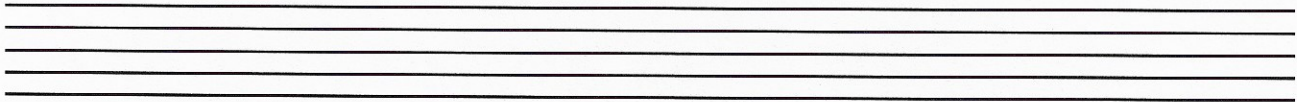
# LESSON 1 *The Staff*

Before you learned to read, you learned the letters of the alphabet. Letters are the symbols that make up words.

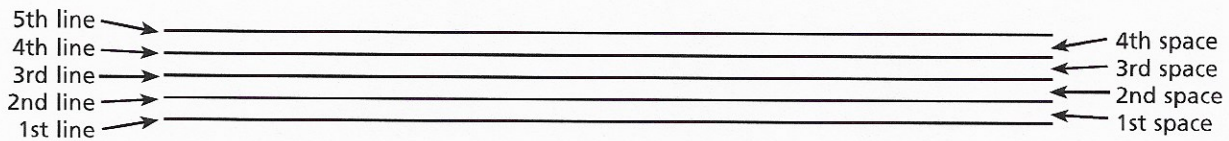
Learning to read music is the same. Before you can read music you must learn the symbols of music. Just as the letters of the alphabet can be combined to form words and sentences, the symbols of music

can be combined to form music. When you have learned the symbols of music, you will see how they are combined to form music.

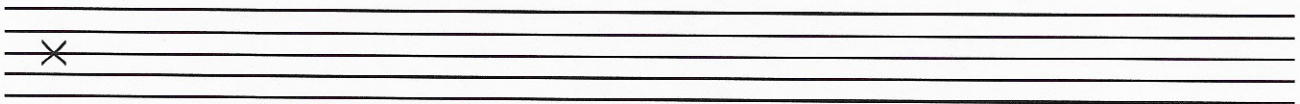
The symbols of music are placed on, or between, or near a group of five lines and four spaces called a **staff**. A **staff** usually runs all the way across a page, like this:



The lines of a **staff** and the spaces between the lines are numbered, like this:



Write an x on the correct line, or in the correct space.



Write an x on the 3rd line

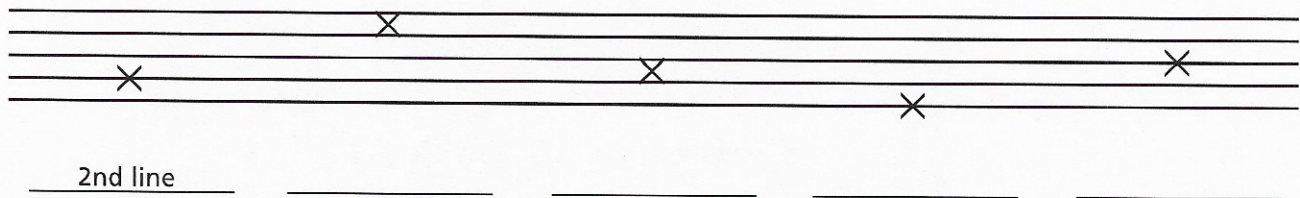
Write an x in the 4th space

Write an x on the 1st line

Write an x in the 2nd space

Write an x on the 3rd line

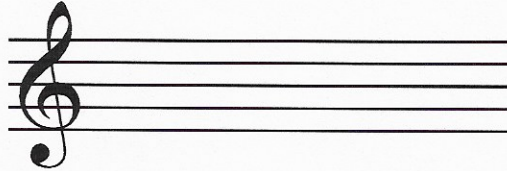
The x is on which line or in which space?



# LESSON 2 *Treble Clef*

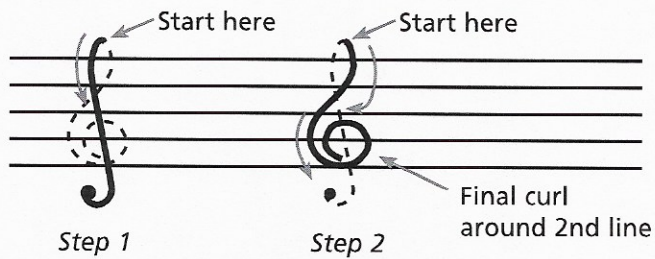
Just as we read words and sentences from left to right, we read the symbols of music from left to right on a **staff**.

The first musical symbol placed at the left of a **staff** is called a **clef sign**. This **clef sign** is called a **treble clef** (pronounced TREH-bul clef).

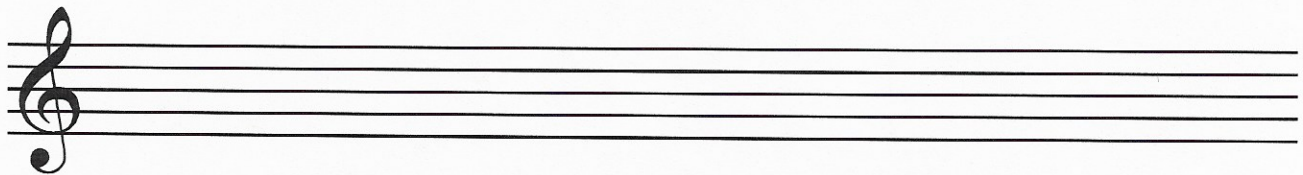


The **treble clef** is also known as the **G clef**.

Here's how to draw a **treble clef** on a **staff**.

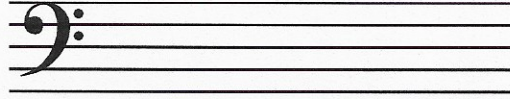


Trace the first **treble clef**, then draw five more **treble clefs** to the right of the first one.



# LESSON 3 *Bass Clef*

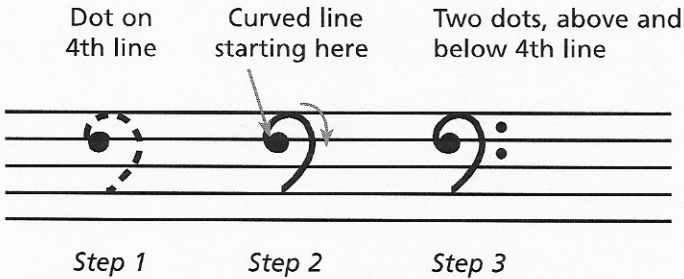
Another **clef sign** which can be placed at the beginning of the **staff** is called the **bass clef** (pronounced the same as the word “base”). The **bass clef** looks like this.



The **bass clef** is also known as the **F clef**.

Here's how to draw a **bass clef** on a **staff**.

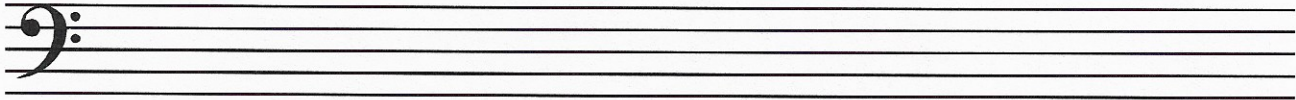
Dot on 4th line      Curved line starting here      Two dots, above and below 4th line



Step 1      Step 2      Step 3

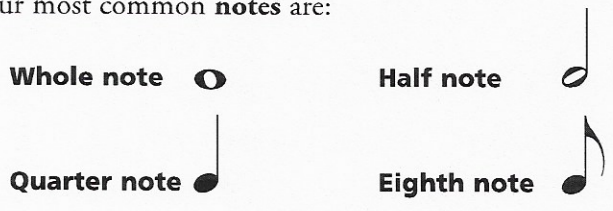
The starting dot goes on the 4th line.  
The two finishing dots go above and below the 4th line.

Trace the first **bass clef**, then draw five more **bass clefs** to the right of the first one.



# LESSON 4 *Notes*

The most important musical symbols placed on a **staff** are called **notes**.  
The four most common **notes** are:





**Notes** tell us several things. One of the things a **note** tells us is how long to sing or play a sound. Some **notes** last for a long time and some for a short time. Of the four **notes** shown above, a **whole note** is the longest and an **eighth note** is the shortest. It's a little bit like arithmetic.

## MusicMath

 =  =  =   
**1 whole note = 2 half notes = 4 quarter notes = 8 eighth notes**

 =  =   
**1 half note = 2 quarter notes = 4 eighth notes**

 =   
**1 quarter note = 2 eighth notes.**

Here's another way of showing the length of these **notes**:

# LESSON 5 *Whole Note*

This is a **whole note**. A **whole note** is the longest note we learned in the last lesson.



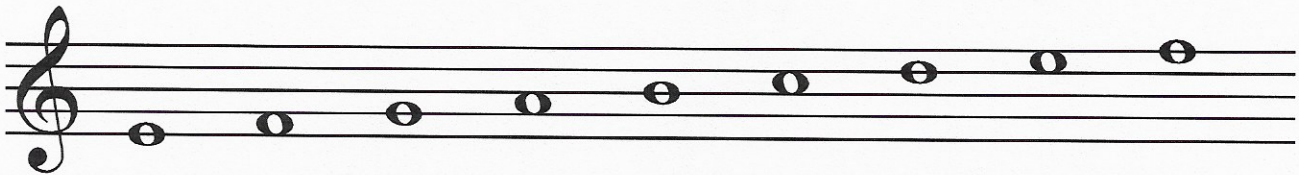
The **whole note** is the easiest to draw. Just draw an oval, like this.



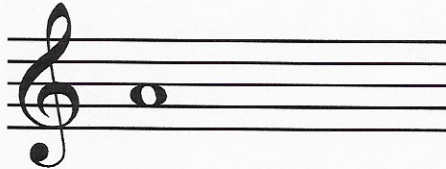
Trace the **whole note** shown below. Then draw five **whole notes** to the right of the **note** you traced.



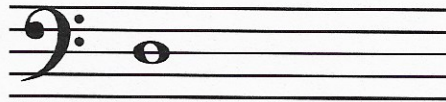
**Whole notes** look like this on a **staff**:



When a **whole note** is in a space, it fills the space from top to bottom, like this:



When it's on a line, it is centered on the line, like this:



Trace the first **whole note** below. Then draw five more **whole notes** anywhere on the **staff**.



**LESSON 5**  
**REVIEW**

*Whole Note*

Circle all the **whole notes** in the staff below.

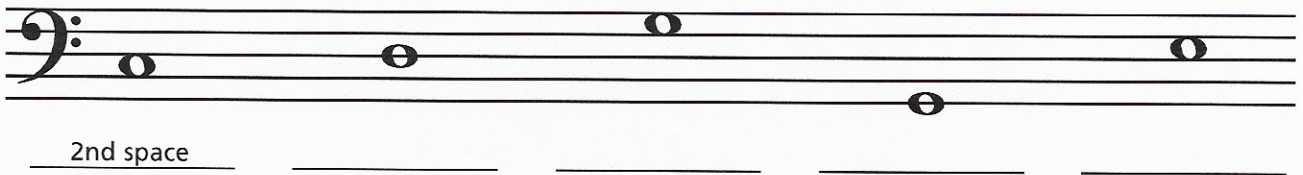


Draw a **whole note** on the line or in the space shown below.

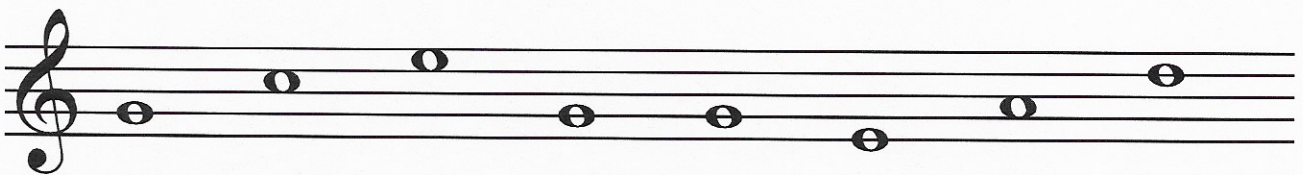


In the 1st space    On the 3rd line    In the 2nd space    On the 5th line    In the 4th space

On which line or in which space have these **whole notes** been placed?



Are these **whole notes** in the **treble clef** or the **bass clef**? Circle the correct answer.



A. Treble clef

B. Bass clef

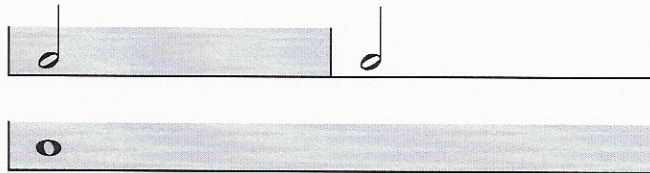
## LESSON 6

*Half Note*

A **half note** looks like this:



Two **half notes** equal one **whole note**.  
A **half note** lasts half as long as a **whole note**.

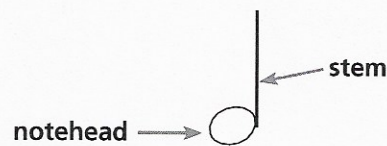


To draw a **half note**, begin by drawing an oval, like a **whole note**. This part of the **note** is called the **notehead**.



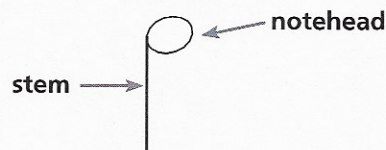
Step 1

Then add a line on the right side of the **notehead**, like this. The line is called a **stem**.

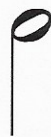


Step 2

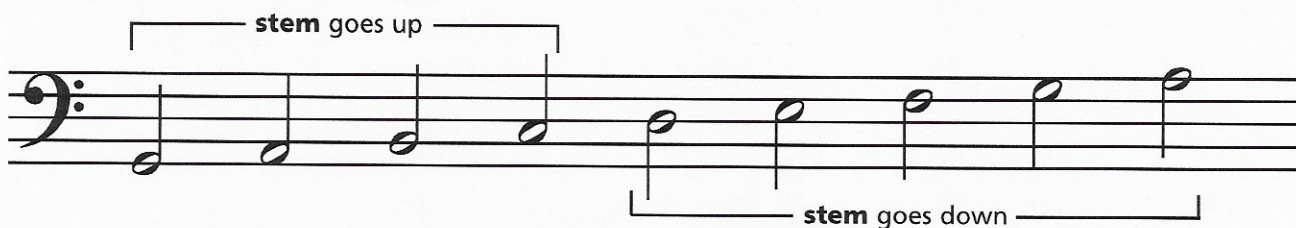
Sometimes the **stem** goes down, like this. If the **stem** goes down, it's on the left side of the **notehead**. If the **stem** goes up, it's on the right side of the **notehead**.



Trace each **half note** shown below. Then draw three more **half notes** to the right of each one you traced.



**Half notes** look like this on a **staff**:



All **half notes** below the 3rd line have the **stem** going up.

All **half notes** on or above the 3rd line have the **stem** going down.



**LESSON 6**  
**REVIEW**

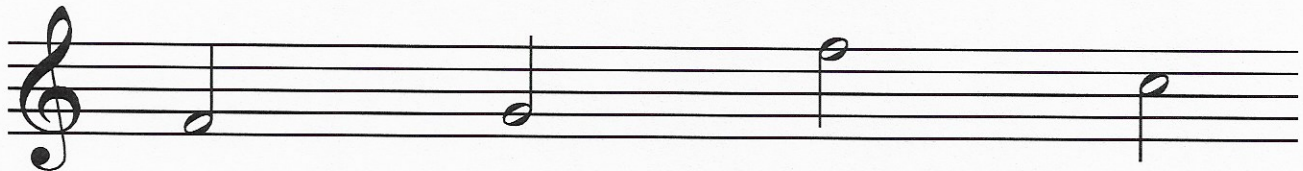
*Half Note*

Draw a **half note** on the line or in the space shown below. Make sure the **stems** go in the correct direction.



In the 1st space      On the 4th line      In the 3rd space      On the 2nd line      On the 5th line

On which line or in which space have these **half notes** been placed?




\_\_\_\_\_

Are these **half notes** in the **treble clef** or the **bass clef**? Circle the correct answer.











A. Treble clef

B. Bass clef

*MusicMath* 

In each of the pairs of examples below, one example is correct and one is incorrect. Circle each example that is correct.

1. A.  +  =       OR      B.  +  = 

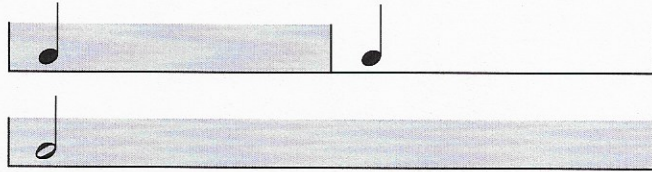
2. A.       OR      B. 

# LESSON 7 *Quarter Note*

A **quarter note** looks like this:



Two **quarter notes** equal one **half note**.  
A **quarter note** lasts half as long as a **half note**.

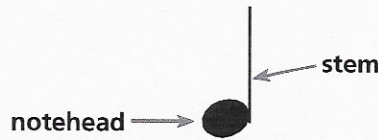


To draw a **quarter note**, begin by drawing an oval, which is the **notehead**.



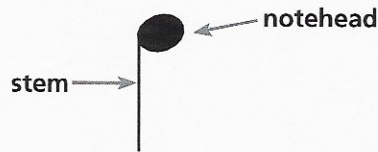
Step 1

Now, fill in the **notehead**, then add a **stem**.



Step 2

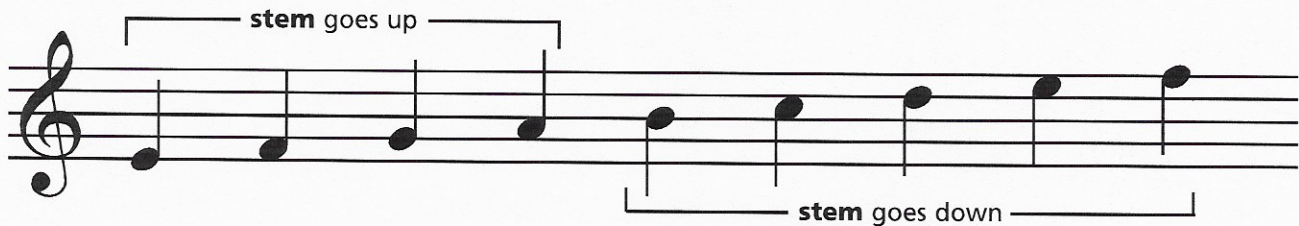
Sometimes the **stem** goes down, just like on a **half note**.



Trace each **quarter note** shown below. Then draw three more **quarter notes** to the right of each one you traced.



**Quarter notes** look like this on a **staff**:



Like **half notes**, all **quarter notes** below the 3rd line have the **stem** going up.

All **quarter notes** on or above the 3rd line have the **stem** going down.

**LESSON 7**  
**REVIEW**

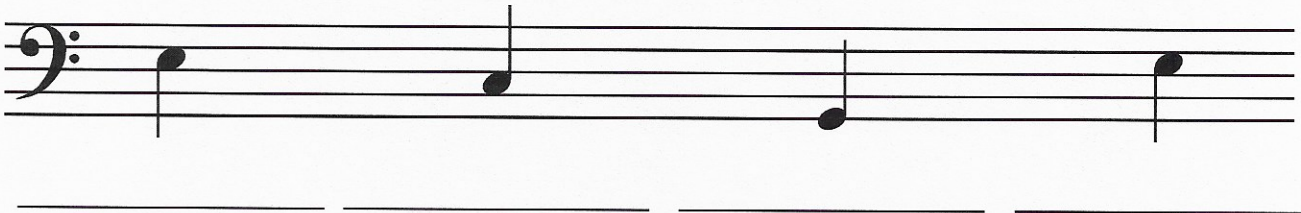
*Quarter Note*

Draw a **quarter note** on the line or in the space shown below. Make sure the **stems** go in the correct direction.



In the 2nd space    On the 2nd line    On the 3rd line    On the 5th line    In the 3rd space


On which line or in which space have these **quarter notes** been placed?









Are there more **quarter notes** or **half notes** on this **staff**? Circle the correct answer.






A. More **quarter notes**    B. More **half notes**




*MusicMath* 

Circle the example that is correct.

A.  +  =     OR    B.  +  = 

True or false? Circle the correct answer for each.

 +  =     True    False

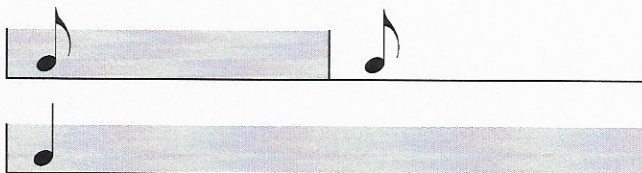
 +  =     True    False

# LESSON 8 *Eighth Note*

An **eighth note** looks like this:



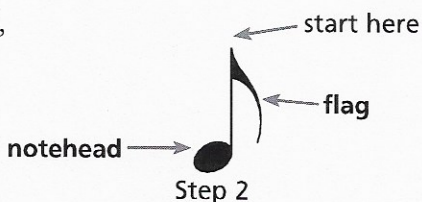
Two **eighth notes** equal one **quarter note**.  
An **eighth note** lasts half as long as a **quarter note**.



To draw an **eighth note**, begin by drawing a **quarter note**.



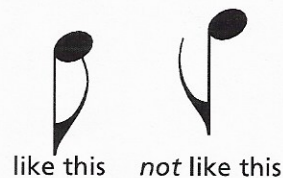
Then add a curved line to the top of the **stem**, like this. This curved line is called a **flag**. (It looks a little like a flag hanging on a flagpole, don't you think?)



Sometimes, like **half notes** and **quarter notes**, the **stem** goes down.



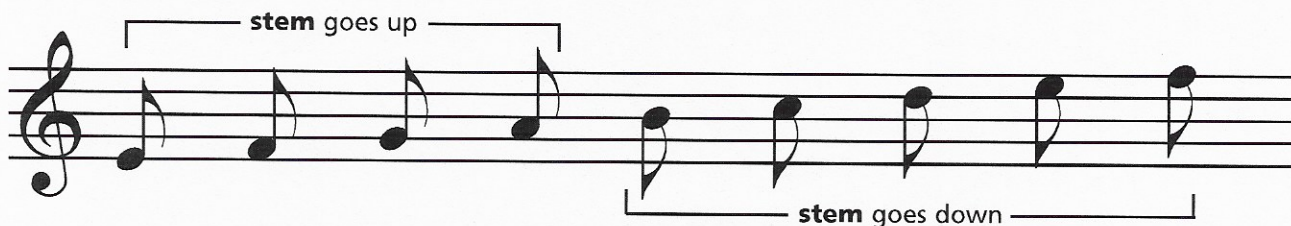
Notice the **stem** is now on the left, but the **flag** is still on the right side of the **stem**.



Trace each **eighth note** shown below. Then draw three more **eighth notes** to the right of each one you traced.



**Eighth notes** look like this on a **staff**.

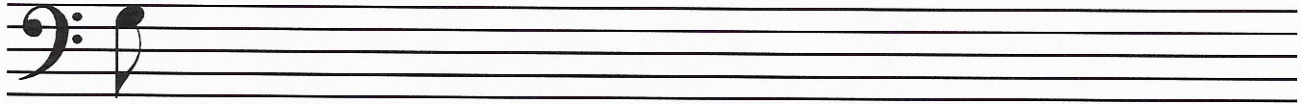


Like **half notes** and **quarter notes**, all **eighth notes** below the 3rd line have the **stem** going up.  
All **eighth notes** on or above the 3rd line have the **stem** going down.

# LESSON 8 *Eighth Note*

## REVIEW

Draw an **eighth note** on the line or in the space shown below. Make sure the **stems** go in the correct direction.



In the 4th space      On the 3rd line      On the 1st line      On the 2nd line      In the 3rd space

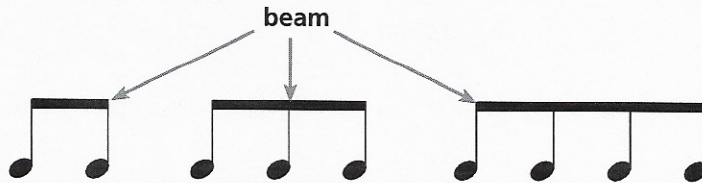
On which line or in which space have these **eighth notes** been placed?



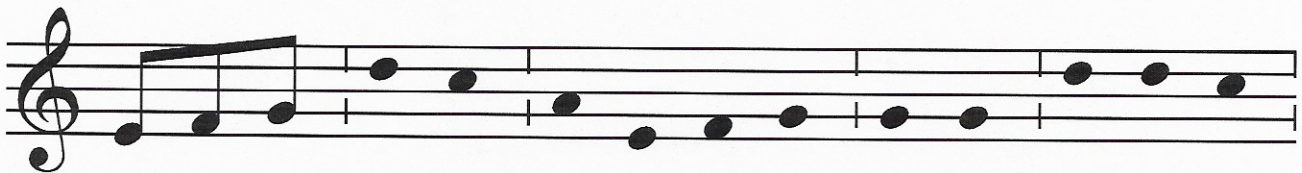
Sometimes, two, three, or four **eighth notes** are written together like this.



The line that connects the **eighth notes** is called a **beam**.



Add the **stems** to these **eighth notes** and connect them with a **beam**.  
Make sure the **stems** go in the correct direction.



Connect these 3      Connect these 2      Connect these 4      Connect these 2      Connect these 3

