

TIME SIGNATURES

We count time in music by counting numbers.

The **Time Signature** at the beginning of the staff tells us what numbers to count. A time signature has two numbers, one placed over the other.


Top Number = *how many counts* (beats) *in a measure*

Bottom Number = *what kind of note gets one count* (beat)


Strategy:

1. Look carefully at the example of time signatures given on the left.
2. Fill in the answers for the time signatures given below.
3. In the measures below, decide what kind of note gets one count. Then decide how many notes of that type there are in the measure.
4. Fill in the missing top number on the time signature on the staff.

Example: $\frac{4}{4}$ = 4 counts in a measure

$\frac{4}{4}$ = 1/4 note () gets one count

$\frac{2}{2}$ = 2 counts in a measure

$\frac{2}{2}$ = 1/2 note () gets one count

$\frac{3}{4}$ = _____ counts in a measure

$\frac{4}{4}$ = _____ note gets one count

$\frac{2}{2}$ = _____ in a _____

$\frac{2}{4}$ = _____ gets _____

WRITE the top number for these incomplete time signatures:



CHECK-UP:

1. We count time in music by counting _____
2. The _____ at the beginning of the _____ tells us what numbers to count.
3. The top number tells us **how** _____ in a measure.
4. The bottom number tells us **what** _____ gets one count.

