













RHYTHM LANGUAGE

Name _____







RHYTHM SYLLABLES

Students who understand how rhythm works, start by using a special language of **rhythm syllables** to match beats with visual symbols. The basic chart below showing these syllables is based on the **Kodály system of music education** as taught in many American schools. Zoltan Kodály (1882-1967) was a composer and music educator from Hungary who wanted children to build a strong music foundation, starting in their early years.

1. In music with 2, 3 or 4 beats per measure, using a quarter note as one beat, review these rhythm syllables.

 = ta (1 sound per beat)	 = ta-ah-ah (3 beats)
 = ti ti (2 sounds per beat)	 = tika tika (4 sounds per beat)
 = rest (one beat of silence)	 = tika ti (1 beat)
 = ta-ah (2 beats)	 = ti tika (1 beat)
 = ta-ah-ah-ah (4 beats)	 = syn-co-pa (2 beats)

2. In music with 6 beats per measure, using an eighth note as one beat, review these rhythm syllables.

 = ta-i (3 beats)	 = rest (3 beats of silence)
 = ti ti ti (3 beats)	 = ti (1 beat)
 = ta-ti (3 beats)	 = ta-ah-ah (6 beats)

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Tap this line, saying the rhythm syllables **ta** (|), **ti** (♪) or **ti ti** (▭) aloud. (3 beats per measure)

				▭		♪	♪		▭	▭		▭	▭	♪	♪		▭		
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