

NAME:

DATE:

Pentatonic Scales

Pentatonic Scales are 5 note scales. (They are all 5 black notes on the piano and sound Chinese).

TO BUILD A MAJOR PENTATONIC

The major pentatonic is the 1,2,3,5&6 of the major scale.

1. Work out the key signature for the root note
2. Build the major scale from the root note up but leave out the 4 and 7 notes.

The image shows two musical staves in treble clef. The first staff illustrates the construction of a major pentatonic scale from a major scale. It shows notes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 1. The 4th and 7th notes are marked with an 'X' to indicate they are excluded. The second staff is labeled 'C MAJOR PENTATONIC' and shows the notes C, D, E, G, and A, with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 1 written below.

TO BUILD A MINOR PENTATONIC

The minor pentatonic is the major pentatonic but starts on the 6th (it takes its name from the 6 as this is the relative minor - EG C Major and A Minor are related).

1. Go up a minor 3rd to get the relative major
2. Work out the key signature for relative major
2. Build the major pentatonic from the relative major note
3. Put the 6th at the start of the scale - now its the relative minor pentatonic

The image shows a musical staff in treble clef labeled 'A MINOR PENTATONIC (related to C Major Pentatonic)'. It shows the notes A, B, C, E, and G. The starting note A is marked with a '6' below it, indicating it is the 6th degree of the C major scale. Fingerings 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 are written below the notes.

EXERCISES - Build these pentatonic scales:

The image shows three pairs of musical staves in treble clef, each pair representing a different pentatonic scale. The first pair is labeled 'D Major' and 'Eb Major'. The second pair is labeled 'A Major' and 'G Minor'. The third pair is labeled 'F Minor' and 'C# Minor'. Each pair consists of two empty staves for writing the scale.