Terms: lesson #4

**Note (Pitch):** a sound created by a musical instrument, a vibration audible to the ear.

* Ascending- notes going to a higher pitch (to the right on a piano)
* Descending - notes going to a lower pitch (to the left on a piano)

**Scale:** It is a set of notes from which you can build melodies and harmonies

**Key:** A system of functionally related chords built from the major and minor scale. A *musical key* is a song's home. The *key* tells you several things about a song: the sharps and flats used, the scale the song is based on, the scale note that serves as is the song's home note, and much more

There is a key for each note and it can be minor or major, more on that later

**Tonic (Root):** The first note of a scale and the tonal center of a piece of music.

**Chord:** A combination of two or more notes played simultaneously. (Usually 3 or more notes are played to make a chord)

**Octave:** The distance between two musical notes that have the same letter name. These higher pitch of these 2 notes vibrates at twice the speed. Example Middle C (C4) = 262 hertz, C one octave above (C5) vibrates at 524 hertz. (this is not important at all for song writing, but maybe you can impress a friend with this fun fact)

the written counting system used in ancient Rome, and is still used today as part of music notation. Most commonly used with chords

\* Use upper case numerals to imply major and lower case for minor

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Major | Minor |
| I = 1 | i = 1 |
| II = 2 | ii = 2 |
| III = 3 | iii = 3 |
| IV = 4 | iv = 4 |
| V = 5 | v = 5 |
| VI = 6 | vi = 6 |
| VII = 7 | vii = 7 |