

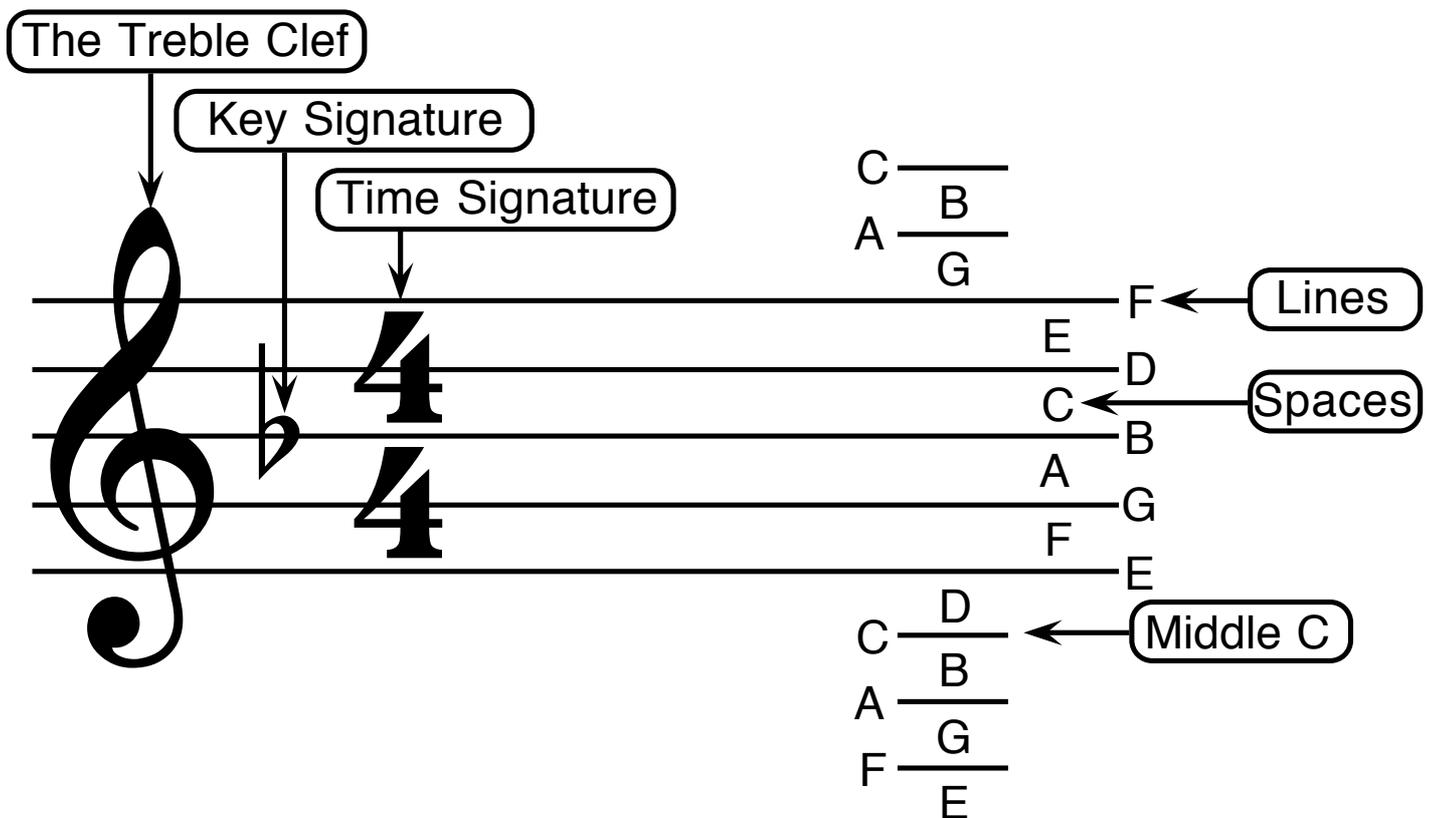
# Notes on the staff

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Learning how to read music is like learning a new language. Once you understand what the various symbols mean you are well on the way to being able to read music. Music notation is comprised of a system of dots and other shaped symbols placed on a series of lines. How long notes sound for is represented by the various shaped note symbols (see the sheet on Rhythmic notation). Other information, like periods of silence, chords, time signature, key signature and so on are also indicated by symbols placed on or around the lines and spaces.

## The Treble Clef

Guitar music is all written on the treble cleff so we will concentrate our attention here.



In the diagram above the five lines and four spaces of the Treble Clef are shown. Note symbols placed on these lines or in the spaces indicate a certain pitch that is to be sounded. An easy way to remember the lines on the treble clef is the first letters of the sentence:- **Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit**. The note names for the spaces from bottom to top spell:- **F A C E**.

Also shown are the locations for the **Time Signature** and the **Key Signature**. The Time signature specifies the number of beats per bar and the note value of each of these beats. The Key Signature symbol tells us what major scale the piece of music is based on (in the above example the key signature is F major). Also shown above are **Ledger Lines** one of which indicates the note **Middle C**. Middle C is an important note which is on the line which divides the treble and bass clefs. Middle C is also the note in the centre of a piano keyboard.