

# Major Key Signatures

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Key signatures and scales are related. A given key signature represents a scale which has the same name as the key signature. To determine the name of the key or scale represented by the key there are two rules.

Rule 1: Last sharp to the right is 7, go to 8 or 1. (pitch 8 or 1 is the name of the key)

Rule 2: Last flat to the right is 4, go to 8 or 1. (pitch 8 or 1 is the name of the key)

To use these two rules, remember that in any major scale we can label the pitches 1 thru 8. By looking at the last sharp to the right we know this sharp is the 7th pitch of the scale this key represents. Likewise, the last flat to the right is the 4th pitch of the scale this key represents.

Example:



This is the last sharp to the right.  
It is the 7th pitch in the scale this key represents.  
Therefore if we count from 7 to 8 we land on D.  
The name of the key is then D Major.



This is the last flat to the right. It is the 4th pitch in the scale this key represents. Therefore if we count from 4 to 1 we land on the B line. Because this line has a flat on it we will call this key signature Bb Major.

\*\* Important: When using these rules always count toward the flats or sharps.  
Also, no sharps or flats in your key signature is the Major key of C.

## Exercises

In the following exercises identify the name of the Major key signature:



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_