

6/8 Time Signature

The bottom number 8 tells us to count **quavers**, the top number tells us there should be **6** in a bar.

But, the **main** beat is not quavers – because that would give us six beats in the bar. (There are always, 2, 3 or 4 beats per bar, or an irregular number which doesn't divide into 2, 3 or 4, such as 7).

We need to work out what note value is equal to **three** of the notes in the time signature: what are 3 quavers worth?

Three quavers = one dotted crotchet.

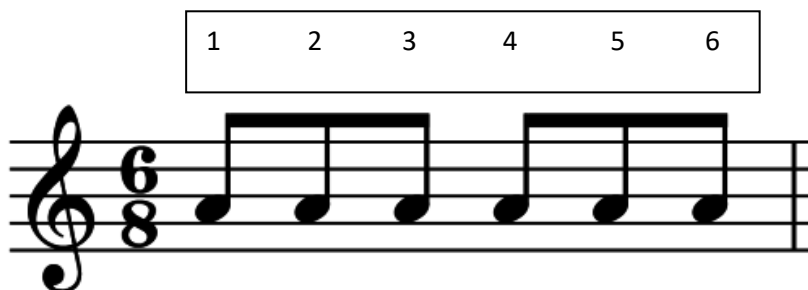
Each bar has two dotted crotchet beats.

In fact, the main beat in any /8 time signature is the **dotted crotchet**.

The quavers should always (whatever the time signature) be beamed to make complete beats whenever possible:



An easy way to tell if a piece of music is in 6/8 time is to count how many quavers there are in a bar.



6/8 Time Signature Questions

Below are some short pieces of music with the Time signature removed. Next to each simple put **Yes** if you think the music is in 6/8 or **No** if you think it's something different.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

