

# Music Theory

Around the circle  
of 5ths in 80 days

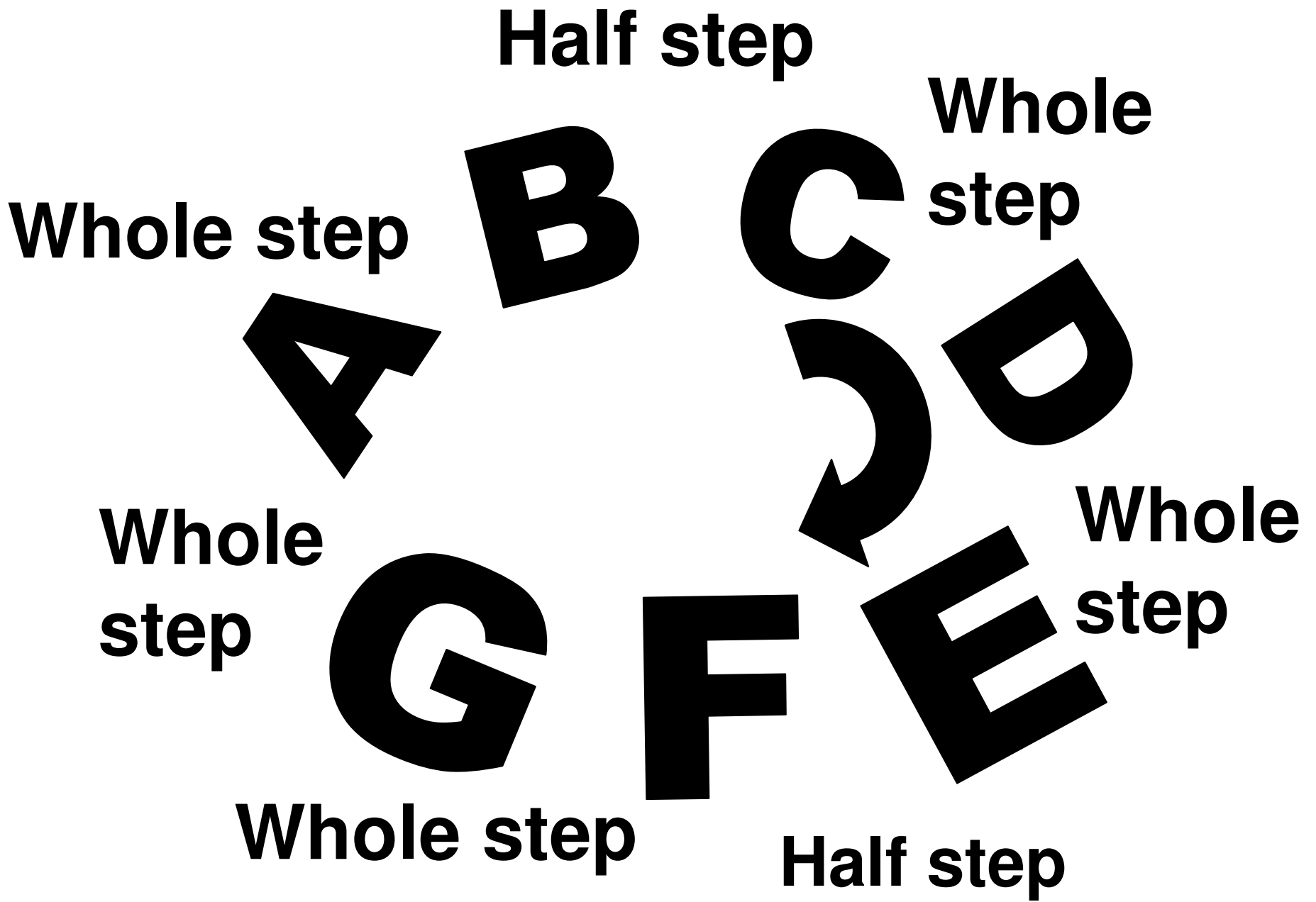
Part II

## Review from last week

- Major scales are used to make major keys
- The scales are made up of whole steps and half steps
- The C Scale has all the whole steps and half steps in the right place naturally

# Review for scale steps

- Whole step, Whole step
- Half step
- Whole step, whole step, whole step
- Half step
- If you do not have this pattern you do not have a major key.

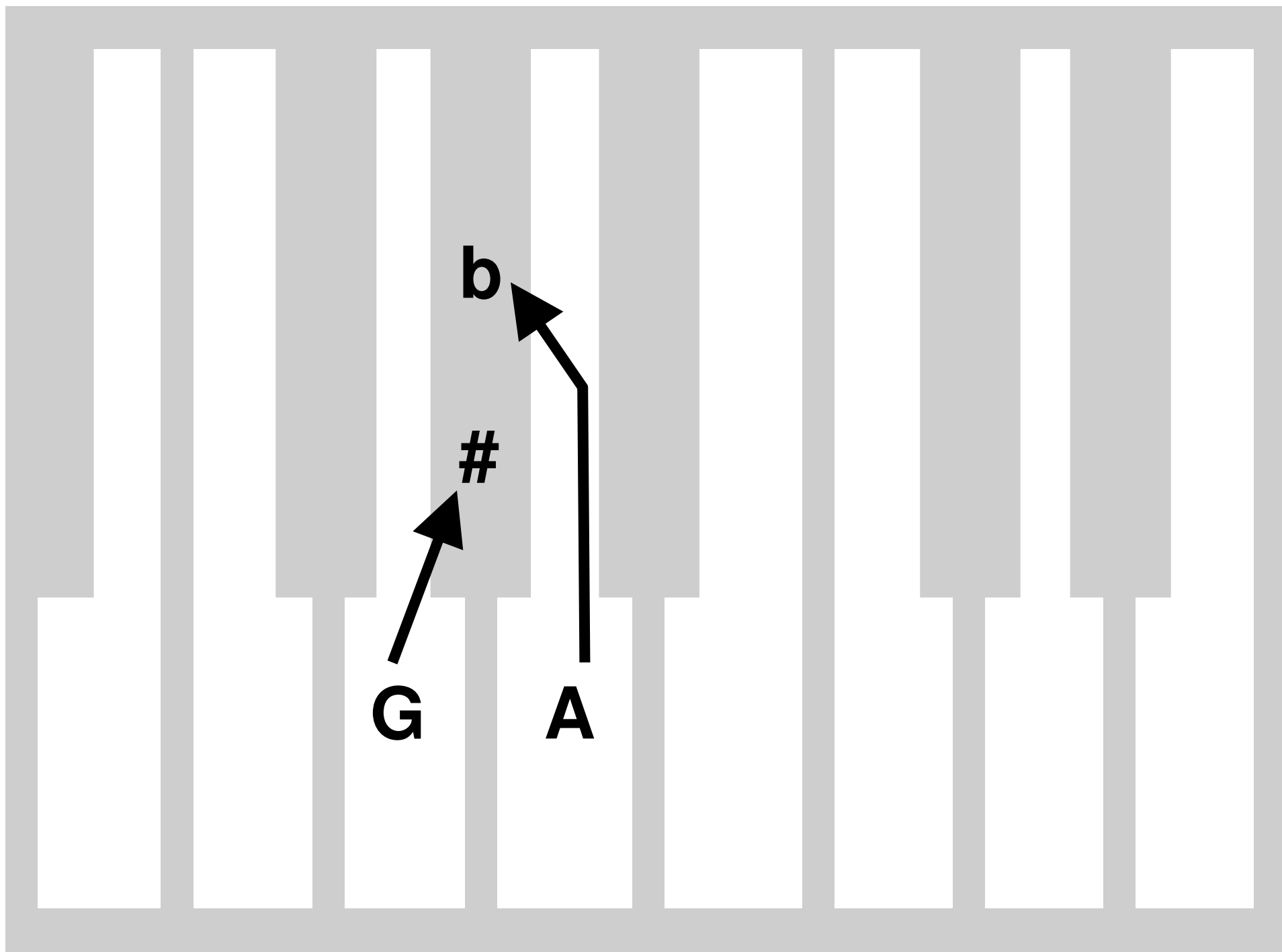


# How do we get a different major key?

- Pick the letter with which you want to start.
- Spell out the scale.
- Use sharps and flats to alter the whole steps and half steps.

# How do flats and sharps work?

- Sharps (#) make a letter slightly higher.
- Flats (b) make the letter slightly lower.

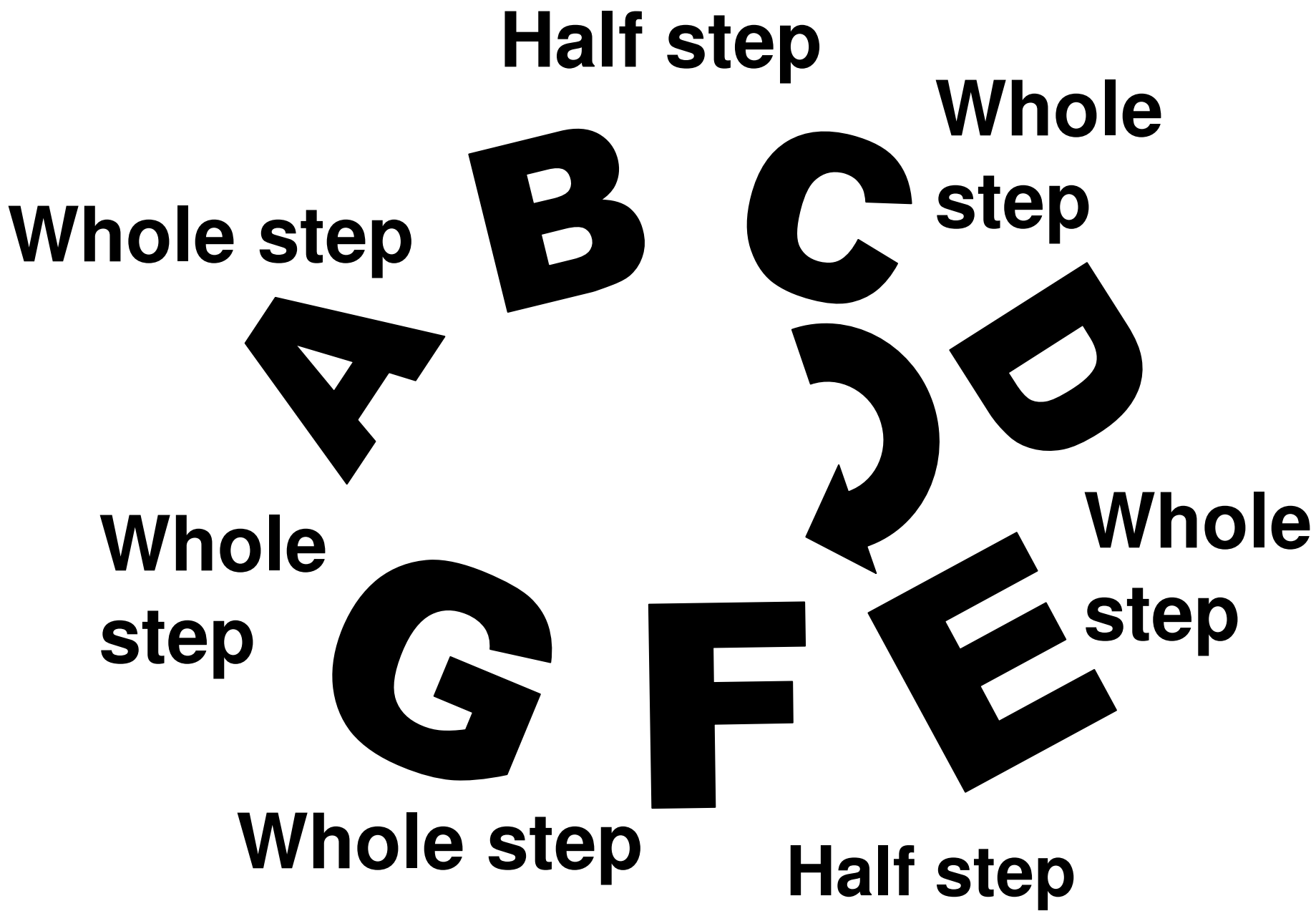


Let's try spelling a different major scale

- Let's try the D major scale

- **D E F G A B C D**

- D-E (Whole)
- **E-F (Whole)!!!**
- **F-G (Half)!!!**
- G-A (Whole)
- A-B (Whole)
- **B-C (Whole)!!!**
- **C-D (Half)!!!**



- D-E (Whole)
- E-F# (Whole)!!!
- F#-G (Half)!!!
- G-A (Whole)
- A-B (Whole)
- B-C# (Whole)!!!
- C#-D (Half)!!!

# What can we get from this?

- The D major scale has two sharps (F# & C#)
- The two sharps are the key of D's signature
- A key signature is the number of flats or sharps that is needed to make a major scale with that letter.

# The circle of 5ths

- Sharps and flats are not added at random.
- There is a definite pattern for finding key signatures
- When you count five letters from a starting point, we add one sharp to the signature for the letter on which we land.

- Let's start with C, since there are no sharps or flats.
- Start on the letter C and count to 5, moving one letter for each number.
- On which letter do we end?

**A B C**  
**D**  
**E**  
**F**  
**G**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

- C Major scale/key of C signature is 0 sharps
- 5 letters up ends on G
- G Major scale/key of G signature is 1 sharp
- 5 letters up from G ends on \_\_\_\_\_.

- D Major scale/key of D signature is \_\_\_\_\_ sharps.
- Keep going until all 7 letters have a sharp.

- How about key signatures and scales with flats?
- To find scales/key's signatures with flats, we use the circle of 4ths.
- The process is the same as 5ths, just one less number.
- Start on the letter C and starting counting to 4, moving one letter for each number.
- On which letter do we end?

A B C  
D  
G F E

1  
2  
3  
4

- C Major scale/key of C signature is 0 sharps
- 4 letters up ends on F
- F Major scale/key of F signature is 1 flat
- 4 letters up from F ends on \_\_\_\_\_.
- For flat key signatures, always say “flat” after the letter except for F.