Time Signatures and Meters

How do you work out a time signature?

A time signature is a set of two numbers that tells us how many beats are in a bar and how that bar is divided.

The time signature tells us two things:

How many beats in a bar →

What kind of beat you are counting →

4 Four crotchet beats per bar

4

1			Semi Breve
2	♩ (minim)	♩ (minim)	Minim *(2 beats)*
4	♩ ♩	♩ ♩	Crotchet *(1 beat)*
8	♪ ♪ ♪ ♪	♪ ♪ ♪ ♪	Quaver *(1/2 beat)*
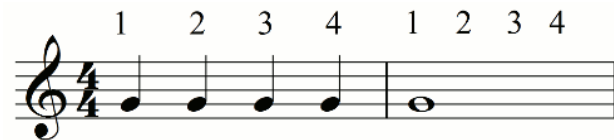
Time Signature		How is the beat divided?
4/4	Four crotchet beats per bar	1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
3/4	Three crotchet beats per bar	1 2 3 1 (2 3)
6/8	Six quaver beats per bar	1 2 3 4 5 6