Finding Notes in a Minor Key

To find all of the pitches in any minor key, we can use one simple formula:

WHWWHWW

The W stands for a whole step, as in the distance between the notes C and D.

The H stands for a half step, as in the distance between the notes C and Db.

Let's look at an example. Suppose we want to find all of the notes in the key of C minor.

There are just three steps to accomplish this.

1. Write all of the letters within the octave:

CDEFGABC

2. Fill in the Minor Scale Formula:

WHWWHWW

CDEFGABC

3. Fill in the sharps or flats so the notes conform to the formula:

W H W W H W W

C D Eb F G Ab Bb C

That's it! Now you can find the pitches in any key you like following the same steps! Try finding the notes in new keys on your own to practice your knowledge!