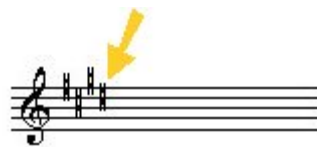**1.5 Determining a Major Key**

In determining a key signature for any named major key, it's important to know whether the key signature has sharps or flats.

With the exception of the key of **C Major (no sharps or flats)** and **F Major (one flat)**, any "stand-alone" letter is going to be a Major key with sharps: G, D, A, E, B. If a sharp follows the letter name (F#, C#), the key signature will have sharps.

If a flat follows the letter name, the key signature will have flats: B*b*, E*b*, A*b*, D*b*, G*b*, C*b*. Again, the exception is F Major with one flat.

C Major (no sharps or flats)	
Sharps	**Flats**
G (1)	F (1)
D (2)	B*b* (2)
A (3)	E*b* (3)
E (4)	A*b* (4)
B (5)	D*b* (5)
F# (6)	G*b* (6)
C# (7)	C*b* (7)

In order to determine the name of a major key that contains sharps, simply name the note that is a half-step above the last sharp. You can also go up to either the next line or next space. For instance, in the example below, D# is on a line so when you go up to the next space you have E.

Above, the last sharp is D#, so the major key would be E major.

In order to determine the name of a major key that contains flats, simply name the next-to-last flat and that will be the key. Again, the key of F major, with one flat, is the exception.

Above, the next-to-last flat is A*b*, which is the name of the major key.