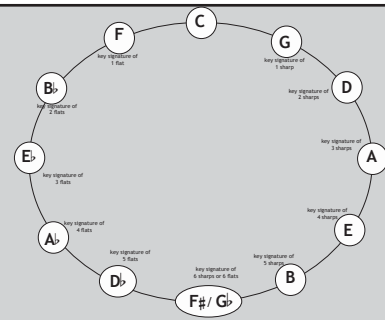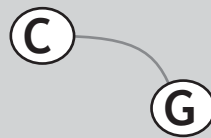# Keys and the Circle of Fifths

The circle of fifths is a diagram that helps us to know how many sharps and flats are in each key, and how they are related to one another.
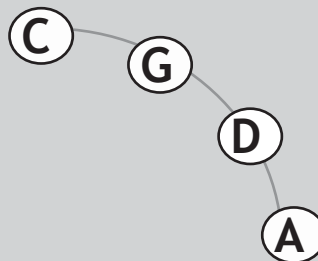

Start drawing the circle of fifths by drawing a C at the top and middle of the circle:

To figure out what comes next, simply count a perfect 5th up from the C, which is G:

Continue around the next two circles and you'll have the keys of D and A:

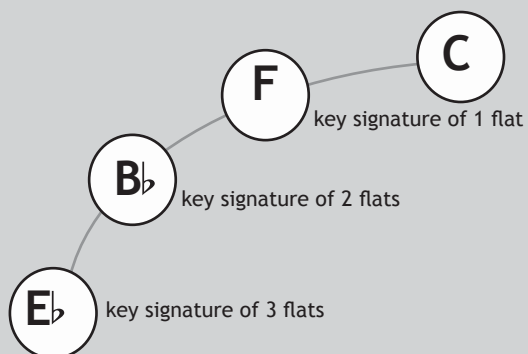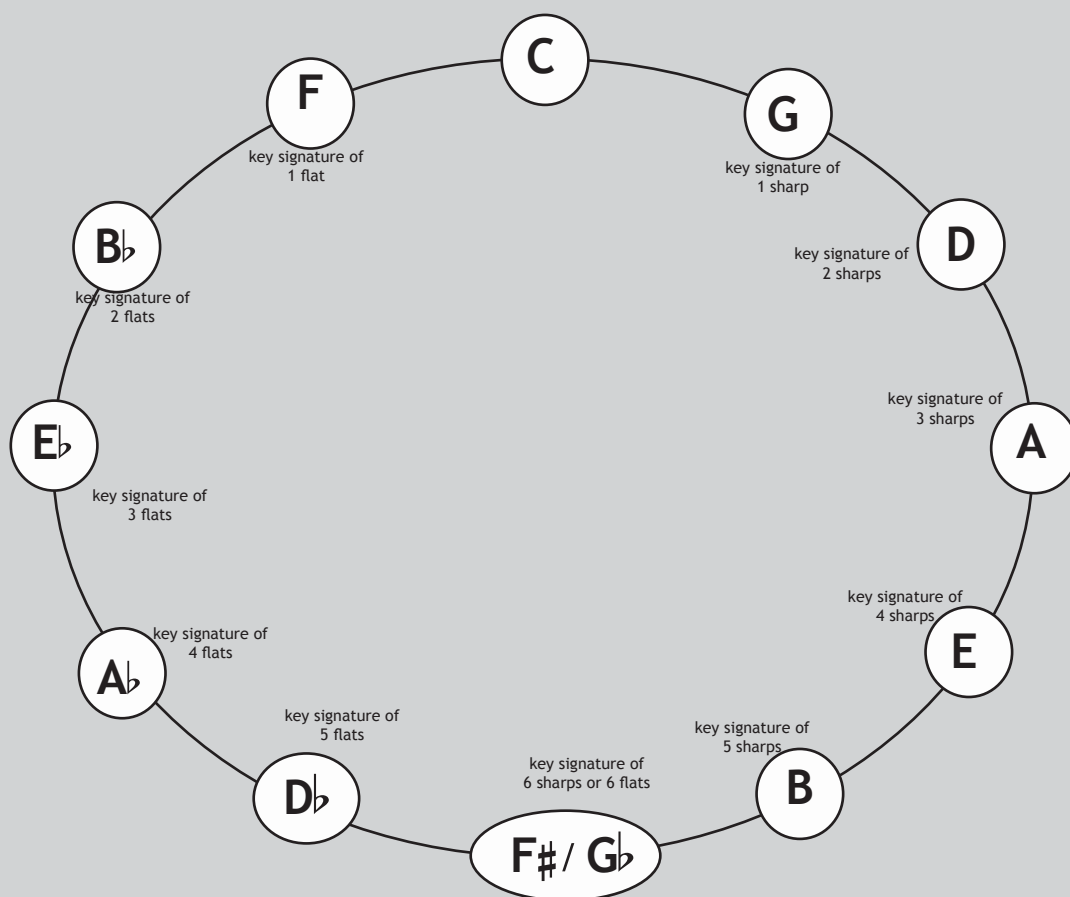The number of sharps increases by 1 as you go around the right hand side of the circle:

key signature of 1 sharp

key signature of 2 sharps

key signature of 3 sharps
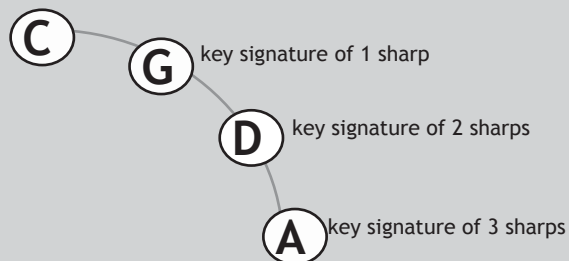
On the other side of the circle, you can go down a perfect fifth from C, which is F:

Continuing down from F we have B flat and E flat:

F — key signature of 1 flat

B♭ — key signature of 2 flats

E♭ — key signature of 3 flats

You can continue and make the whole circle like this:

C

F — key signature of 1 flat

G — key signature of 1 sharp

B♭ — key signature of 2 flats

D — key signature of 2 sharps

E♭ — key signature of 3 flats

A — key signature of 3 sharps

A♭ — key signature of 4 flats

E — key signature of 4 sharps

D♭ — key signature of 5 flats

B — key signature of 5 sharps

F♯ / G♭ — key signature of 6 sharps or 6 flats

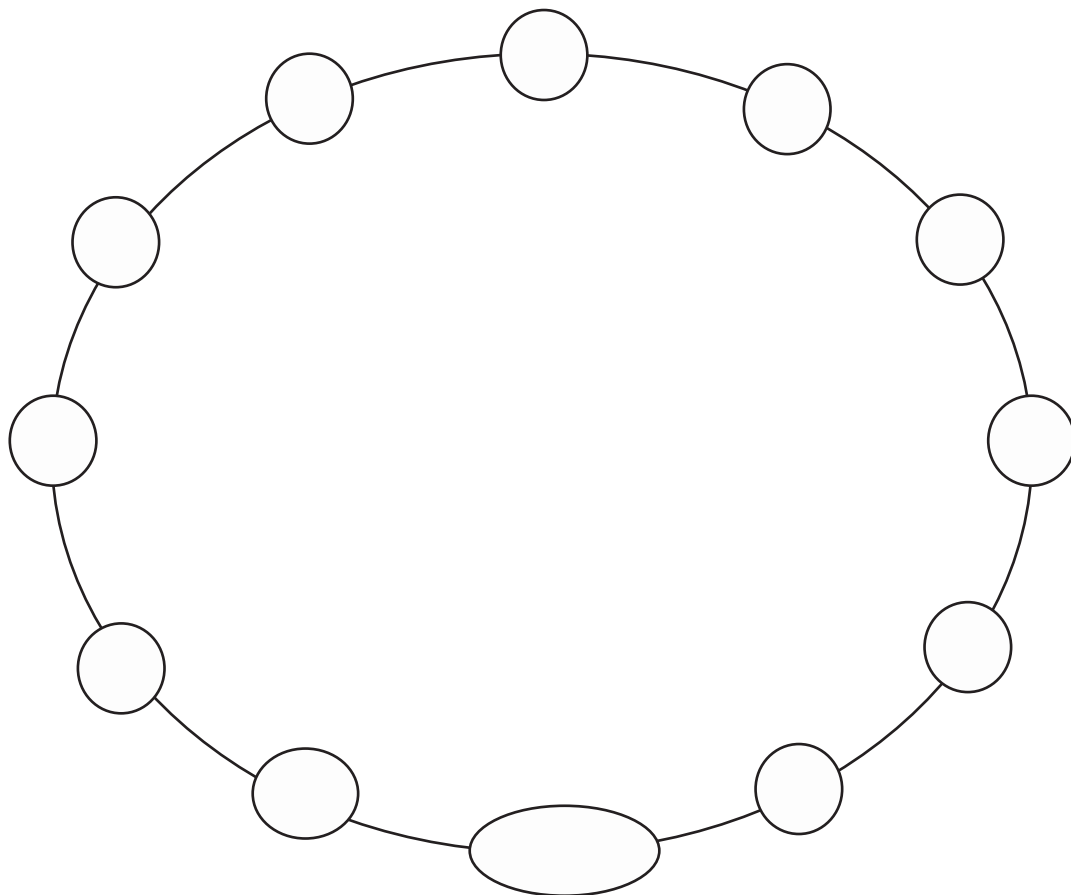Referring to the circle of 5ths diagram answer the following questions:

What major key has a key signature of 4 sharps? _____

What major key has a key signature of 3 flats? _____

How many flats does the key of A flat major have? _____

How many sharps does the key of B major have? _____

Complete the circle of 5ths below, and indicate how many sharps or flats each key has:

Complete:

The key of C Major has _____ sharps or flats.
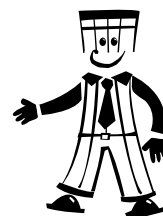
The key of G Major has _____ sharp.

The key of D major has two _____.

The key of A major has _____ sharps.

The key of F major has one _____.

The key of B flat major has _____ flats.

The key of E flat major has _____ flats.