## Section 2.3

## LEARNING MAJOR KEY SIGNATURES

Flats / sharps on the staff

The order of flats on the staff is B-E-A-D-G-C-F, or **BEAD-Greatest Common Factor**. The order of sharps on the staff is F-C-G-D-A-E-B, or **Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Birds**.

Pairs add to seven (shortcut)

For each letter name, there is a flat key and a sharp key. Only one will have an accidental in the key name (except C flat/C/C sharp). The **total number of accidentals** for the two keys always **adds up to seven**. For instance, G flat major has 6 flats, and G major has 1 sharp. See **2.5 Key Signatures Self-Study Tips** for more tips.

