



Especially

for

kids

and their

families

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Created by BETTY DEBNAM

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Celebrate Music in Our Schools Month

How Did Music Begin?

Making music

Do you play an instrument? Some kids learn to play the piano or violin. Others join the school band.

You and your friends or family might enjoy music at home, or on the go with an MP3 player. Even if you just like to sing, you're using a completely natural musical instrument — your voice!



Music in our schools

Music is a big part of our modern lives. But music in one form or another has been part of people's lives for thousands of years.

March is Music in Our Schools Month. This year, the theme is "Music Touches Lives." The Mini Page plays along by looking at the origins of some musical instruments.



The earliest musicians

Prehistoric music is music made before people were writing things down. Because there are no records, experts have to **hypothesize** (hi-POTH-eh-size), or make guesses, about how early people made music.

In this issue, we explore some of the ideas that experts have about early people and how they made music.

Human voices

Humans used different noises to express fear or joy. These sounds, along with some of the sounds they heard from animals, such as birds' chirping, might have led them to make music.



Finding a rhythm

When people began to use tools, for instance to pound grains, they may have done so in a **rhythm**, or a regular pattern. These sounds might have led them to make other pleasing rhythms with the first percussion instruments.

The Mini Page thanks Dr. Aurelia Hartenberger with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Dr. Deborah Check Reeves, curator of education at the National Music Museum in Vermillion, S.D., for help with this issue.

Early percussion instruments

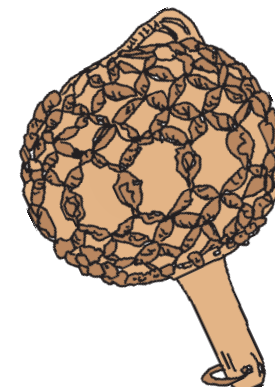
Early humans probably banged rocks together to make tools. When they did, pieces might have broken off that they used for another purpose, such as scraping.

Those same pieces of stone could have been used to scrape rhythms on shells, wood or other stones.

Early people probably made clapping sounds with their hands. They also might have hit sticks on a hollow tree and noticed how loud it was. This may have been the beginning of a hollow wood instrument called a **slit drum**.

Later, people stretched animal skins over wooden frames, then hit the drums with their hands or sticks. Such drums were used in honor of animals or plants.

Some filled gourds, shells or other items with small stones, nut shells or animal teeth and shook them as **rattles**. They were used to **accompany**, or go along with, music and dance.



More Music Makers

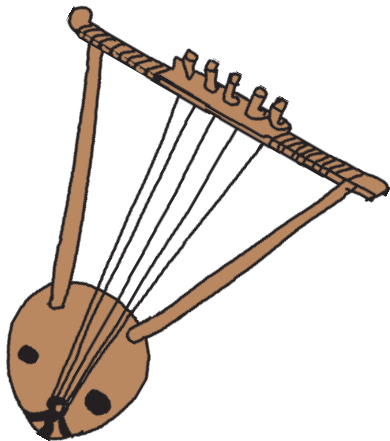
The bull-roarer

One of the earliest instruments that experts have identified is the **bull-roarer**. It was a piece of bone with a hole in one end where a long piece of hide was attached. The bull-roarer was “played” by whirling it overhead. Music experts think the noise of the bull-roarer was intended to scare off enemies or evil spirits.



The lyre

This ancient stringed instrument was made in a box or bowl shape. It had two “arms,” usually made of wood or horn, with a crossbar at the end. Strings were attached at the crossbar and the body of the **lyre** (liar).



Whistles

Prehistoric wind instruments, such as whistles, were probably used in hunting and in war. These whistles might have been made of bones from birds, from shells or horns, or from **phalanxes** (FAY-lanks-es), or finger or toe bones from an animal.

Musical discoveries

In Ireland in 2004, **archaeologists**, or scientists who study ancient cultures, uncovered the remains of what they believe to be a prehistoric musical instrument.



Six wooden pipes were found in Ireland. They do not have holes, but their different lengths would have made different tones when air blew through them.

A mammoth flute

At a site in Germany in 2004, archaeologists found a flute with three finger holes carved in ivory from a mammoth. They believed the flute to be more than 30,000 years old.

Materials

People made some wind instruments from bird bones, which are hollow. Others, made from bone or horn, had to be hollowed out. People carved out the insides of the bone or horn, or they might have used fire to burn the insides away.

Some Native Americans still carry on the tradition of making eagle bone flutes.



The flute, found in 31 pieces, was about 7½ inches long.

The flute maker probably split a mammoth tusk, hollowed it out, and then glued it back together.

Next week, The Mini Page catches up with giant pandas.

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Mini Spy ...



Mini Spy is playing a solo for her friends. See if you can find:

- muffin
- carrot
- ruler
- duck
- word MINI
- spoon
- chicken
- pencil
- watermelon slice
- fork
- cat • knife
- heart



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MUSIC

TRY 'N
FIND

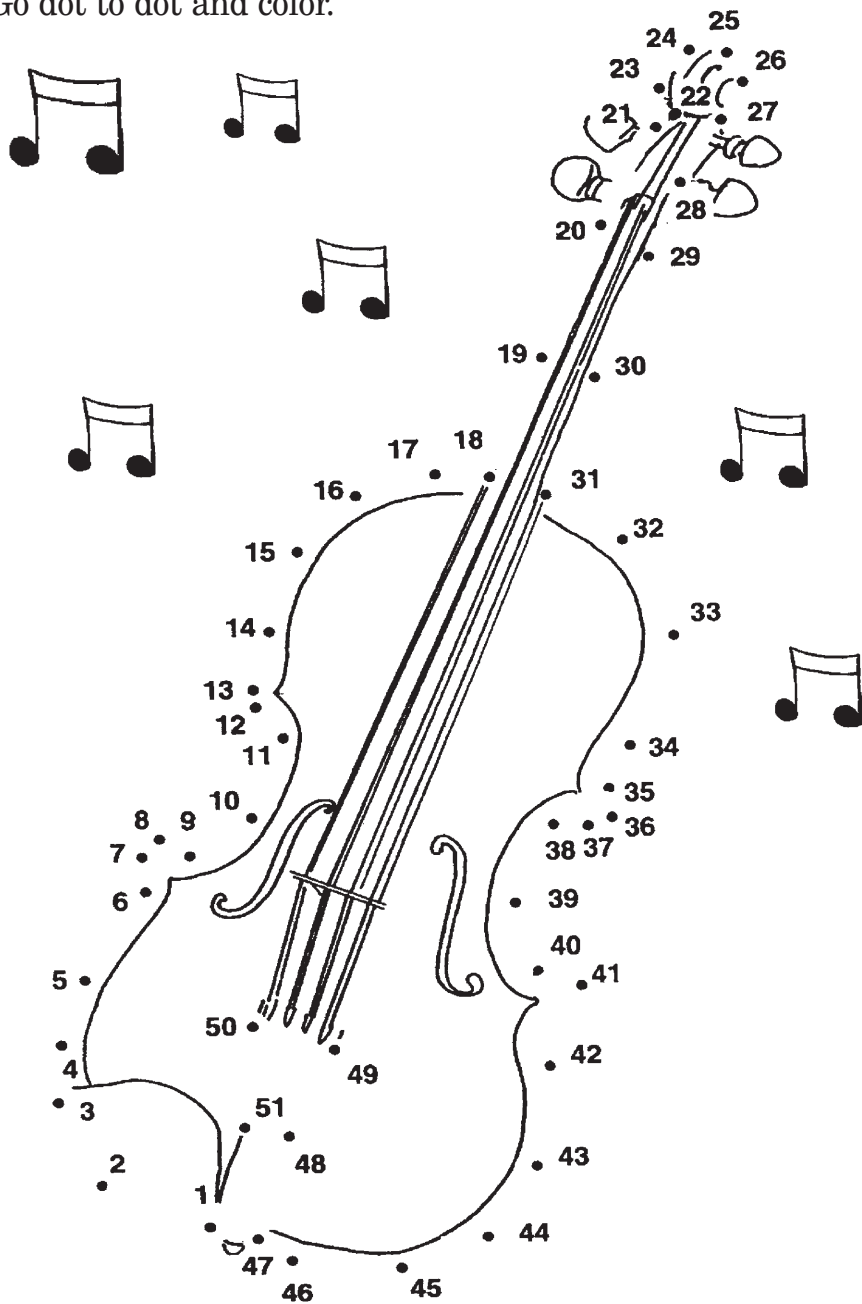
Words that remind us of musical instruments are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: MUSIC, SING, INSTRUMENT, PREHISTORIC, RHYTHM, PERCUSSION, TOOLS, DRUM, SCRAPE, RATTLE, BULL-ROARER, LYRE, SHELL, HORN, PIPE, MAMMOTH, IVORY, FLUTE, STRINGS, WOODWIND, BRASS, LUR, PIANO, ROCK.

LET'S MAKE
SOME MUSIC!



W M Z M C I R O T S I H E R P
O U K A J Y R O V I H O R N I
O S G M H T Y H R Q O N A I P
D I N M L E R Y L S C R A P E
W C I O U X S G N I R T S C S
I N S T R U M E N T K L H G S
N B X H N O I S S U C R E P A
D R U M E T U L F T O O L S R
E L T T A R E R A O R L L U B

Go dot to dot and color.



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Veggie Blossom

These are ingredients for one flower. Make several, and you have a garden!

You'll need:

- 1 round cucumber slice
- 7 to 9 round carrot slices
- 1/2 celery stalk
- 1 tablespoon cream cheese or peanut butter
- 2 spinach leaves

What to do:

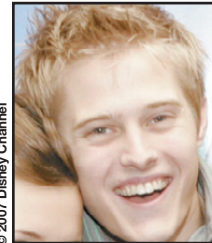
1. Wash all vegetables; peel and slice.
2. Place cucumber slice in middle of plate.
3. Position carrot slices around the cucumber to form petals.
4. Spread peanut butter or cream cheese on celery stalk. Place stalk on lower part of cucumber slice to form a stem.
5. Arrange spinach leaves on either side of the celery stalk.

**You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*



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Meet Lucas Grabeel



© 2007 Disney Channel

Lucas Grabeel stars as Ryan Evans in the Disney Channel movie "High School Musical 2." He has acted in several other movies, including "High School Musical," "Halloweentown High" and "Return to Halloweentown." He has also acted in several TV series, appearing as the teenage Lex Luthor in "Smallville."

Lucas has toured throughout North, Central and South America with "High School Musical: The Concert."

He recorded the song "You Know I Will" for the Disney animated movie "The Fox and the Hound 2."

Lucas, 23, was born in Springfield, Mo. He began acting when he was 12 years old in a school play. He then starred in several local musicals, including "Footloose," "Grease" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

He sang in his school choir and was on the debate team. He traveled with his family for part of every year to a work in a mission in Guatemala.

He now lives in Los Angeles. He enjoys painting, writing music, and playing the guitar, piano, accordion and drums.

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MIGHTY
FUNNY'S

Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Evelyn: What is a lighthouse keeper's favorite instrument?

Evan: A foghorn!



Ellen: What is it called when a group of monkeys plays in the orchestra?

Earl: A chimphony!

Eric: Why are violins so nervous?

Emma: Because they are high-strung!



Modern Instruments

Today, instruments are usually grouped into four categories:

- strings
- brass
- woodwinds
- percussion

Woodwinds

Here are some **woodwind** instruments you may have seen or played yourself. Can you match each instrument with its name?

• bassoon



A. _____

• bass clarinet



B. _____

• clarinet



C. _____

• piccolo



• flute



D. _____

• English horn

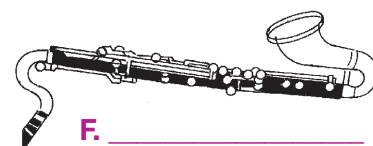


• oboe



E. _____

Answers:
A. flute
B. oboe
C. bassoon
D. piccolo
E. English horn
F. bass clarinet
G. clarinet



F. _____



G. _____

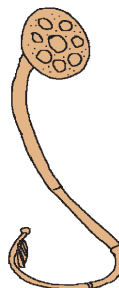
Modern flutes produce sound much like prehistoric whistles and flutes. Today's woodwinds are made of wood, plastic or metal. Others, such as clarinets and saxophones, have a reed that vibrates when the player blows air through the mouthpiece.

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Brass

Brass instruments are also played by blowing air through them. Players "buzz" their lips in the mouthpiece to make a forceful current of air. The shape, size and length of the metal tubing makes brass instruments sound different from each other.

Ancient instruments related to today's brass instruments include the lur, from Scandinavia. They were made of bronze or wood.



A French horn, if unwound, would be 12 to 17 feet long! It ends in a big bell, and it has valves that change the pitch of the notes played.

Strings

Strings include guitars, violins and large standing instruments such as double bass and cello. The strings may be made from sheep gut, nylon or wire.

Today's stringed instruments are more complex than the early lyre or similar instruments. Violins, guitars and other strings can be electrified, which makes them louder and can give the musician more control over the sound.



A cello has a sound that some people believe to be closest to a human voice. A cellist sits in a chair and holds the instrument upright.

A double bass has deep tones. The bassist must stand or sit on a tall stool to play it.

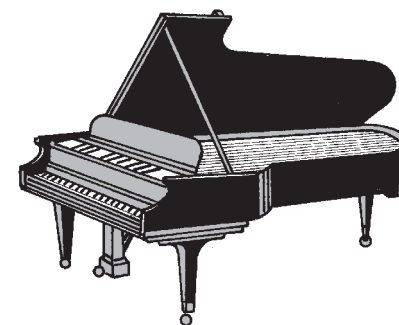
Percussion

There are many ways to add a rhythm to music. Percussion instruments can be used as rhythm instruments to help us keep the beat. Others can be used as melody instruments.



Timpani, also called kettledrums, are big copper bowls with a manmade material stretched across them. Foot pedals are used to adjust the tightness of the skin and make different pitches. Which of the ancient instruments were used to play a rhythm?

Chimes are a set of 12 to 18 metal pipes of different lengths that hang from a metal frame. The musician strikes the pipes with a hammer. Can you see any similarity between these pipes and the ones found in Ireland?



A piano falls into two instrument categories: strings, because it has long metal strings, and percussion, because small felt hammers strike the strings when you play the keys. Look for a clue on this page about how many keys a piano has.

All of the instruments on this page can be traced back to instruments of thousands of years ago. Which ones would you like to play? Are they modern instruments, or ancient ones?

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