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Beat Band Boogie!

Music

Music is a way of putting sounds together that people can listen to and enjoy. Music can be made by people singing or by playing musical instruments.

Marching bands

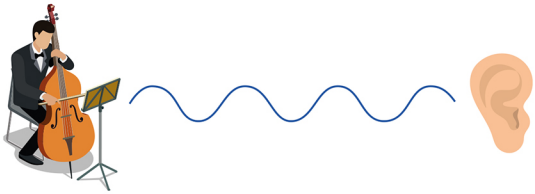
A marching band is a group of musicians who perform their music while they are marching. They usually play brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. The musicians often wear a uniform and perform in parades or at special events. They usually march in lines and are led by a conductor. They work together to keep in time and follow the beat of the music.



military marching band

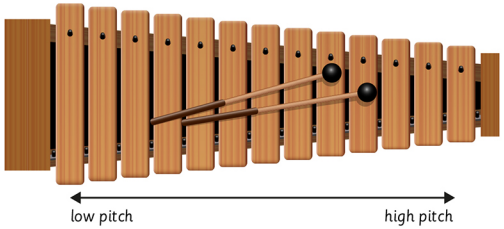
Sound

When an instrument is played, the air around or inside it vibrates. These vibrations travel as a sound wave through a medium, such as air or water, to the ear.



Pitch

Pitch is how low or high a sound is. Parts of an instrument that are shorter, tighter or thinner produce higher pitched sounds. For example, xylophones have wooden keys that vary in length. The long keys produce low-pitched sounds and the short keys produce high-pitched sounds.



Volume

Volume is how loud or quiet a sound is. The volume is louder when close to the source of the sound. Also, the harder an instrument is hit, plucked or blown, the louder the sound.

Instruments

String
String instruments can be played by plucking or strumming the strings. Some string instruments, like a violin, can be plucked or played with a bow that is moved across the strings. The string vibrates to make a sound.



violin

Woodwind
Woodwind instruments are played by blowing air into or across the mouthpiece. Some woodwind instruments, like a clarinet, have a piece of wood in the mouthpiece called a reed. The reed vibrates to make the sound.



clarinet

Brass
Brass instruments are played by putting the lips onto the mouthpiece and blowing. The vibrations from the lips travel along the brass tube to make the sound. The valves on the instrument can be pressed to change the pitch of the sound.



trumpet

Percussion
Percussion instruments make a sound when they are hit with the hand or with a beater. Some percussion instruments, like cymbals, are often used in pairs and are hit together. The plates vibrate to make the sound.



cymbals

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The voice

Humans can use their voices to make a range of sounds. People around the world have developed ways to use their voices to make different types of sounds for singing. They can alter the volume, pitch, rhythm and tempo to create different effects.

Opera singers have very powerful voices. They can sing very loudly, use a range of notes and use a style of repeated shaking on a note called vibrato.



Yodelling is a type of singing that changes the pitch very quickly from low to high. It is often sung at a high volume.



Inuit throat singing is a type of chanting and growling. It uses a lot of breath as the sound is kept going for a long time.



A cappella is a style of singing without instruments. It can be sung alone or in a choir, with the performers singing together in harmony.



The Grand Old Duke of York

The Grand Old Duke of York is a nursery rhyme about an army of ten thousand men who marched up and down a hill.

Oh, the grand old Duke of York,
He had ten thousand men,
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And he marched them down again.

And when they were up they were up,
And where they were down they were down,
And when they were only half way up
They were neither up nor down.

The 'real' Grand Old Duke of York

The Grand Old Duke of York is thought to be about Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, who was the second son of King George III. In 1794, Frederick was asked to lead a huge army against the French. Frederick was not a good leader, and he lost the battle. Frederick decided to learn how to be a better leader. He worked hard, and his army went on to win many battles.



Portrait of Prince Frederick

Glossary

band	A small group of musicians who play music together.
beat	The steady pulse that you feel in a piece of music.
conductor	A person who directs the performance of a choir or orchestra.
harmony	The singing or playing of music together to produce a pleasing sound.
lyrics	The words of a song.
melody	A tune made up of a series of musical notes that make a memorable sound.
note	A musical sound or a written symbol that represents a sound.
pulse	The beat in a piece of music.
rhythm	The pattern of sounds, words or notes.
tempo	The speed of a piece of music.
vibration	A quick, back and forth movement.

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