## EARNING AT HOME



 $Do \ not \ gather \ materials \ without \ permission. \ Ask for \ help from \ a \ grown-up.$ 

IN THE YEAR 1914, two musicologists created a new system for classifying musical instruments called the Sachs-Hornbostel system. Instruments are put into categories based on where the vibration takes place and produces the sound. The five categories are at right.

Aerophones: sound created primarily by the column of air vibrating or being interrupted. Examples: trumpet, flute, recorder, accordion Idiophones: sound created by the body of the instrument vibrating without a membrane or strings. Examples: cymbals, steel drums, bells, maracas

**Notice** 

**AEROPHONES** 

Sound created primarily

or being interrupted

Make a straw flute

by the column of air vibrating

Materials needed: Straw. scissors

Step 1: Make a flexible, flat-ended

sliding your fingers back and forth

Then bite down on the same end

of the straw and slide the straw

**Step 2:** Cut equal pieces from

create a pointed tip.

each side of the flattened end to

straw. Flatten one end of your

along two inches of the straw.

straw by pinching down and

**Chordophones:** sound created primarily by a string vibrating. Examples: lute, ukulele, mandolin, violin,

Membranophones: sound created primarily by the membrane of the instrument vibrating. Examples: frame drums, kazoo, kettle drums, tambourines

**Electrophones:** sound generated by electrical means. Examples: synthesizer, electric organ,



# guitar, piano

Curriculum provided by the San Diego County Office of Education. For more, go to https://covid-19.sdcoe.net/

theremin

**CHORDOPHONES** 

by a string vibrating

can work)

Sound created primarily

Make a cardboard box guitar

Materials needed: small box or

container (save an empty tissue

box), rubber bands of different

size and thickness (string also

Step 1: Make a small hole in the

center of your box. (If you are

the hole already in the box.)

Step 2: Make sure you have a

variety of rubber band sizes and

rubber bands around your box.

Make sure the rubber band is

thicknesses. Carefully stretch your

stretched over the hole in the box.

**Step 3:** Explore your chordophone

by plucking each rubber band in

various locations. What do you

notice? What do you wonder?

Record your observations.

using an empty tissue box, use

# **Build**

## **Investigate**

Sound created primarily by the membrane of the instrument vibrating

**MEMBRANOPHONES** 

#### Make a drum

Materials needed: two empty storage containers, each made of different materials (plastic, metal, wooden box, cardboard box); objects to strike the drum (pencil, spoon, etc.)

**Step 1:** Turn the containers upside down.

**Step 2:** Strike different parts of the containers with your hands. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Record your observations.

**Step 3:** Strike different parts of the containers with different objects. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Record your observa-



## **Grades K-3**

What is the same about the sounds you hear from each drum? What is different about the sounds you hear from each drum?

#### back and forth in between your teeth a few times.

Step 3: Carefully, put the cut end of the straw in your mouth. Bite down on the straw and make a seal with your lips. Blow into the straw. You'll probably have to experiment with blowing harder and softer while biting down with different amounts of pressure until you make a sound.

#### **Grades K-3**

Get someone to help you with cutting the straw. How were you able to make a sound using your straw flute? Share your ideas.

Sound created by the body of the instrument vibrating without a membrane or strings

Generate

#### Make a shaker

**IDIOPHONES** 

Materials needed: Small objects (coins, paper clips, small plastic toys, wooden cubes); two containers with lid (plastic, metal, wooden box, cardboard box)

**Step 1:** Fill one of the containers with the small objects you chose.

**Step 2:** Shake the container at a variety of tempos (speeds). What do you notice? What do you wonder? Record your observations.

Step 3: Put the small objects in a second container. Repeat Step 2.



#### **EXPLORING INSTRUMENTS**

Materials needed: Handmade or traditional instruments, paper, something to write with

**Orchestrate** 

Step 1: Using one instrument, create a pattern that is 8, 16, or 32 counts long.

**Step 2:** Use symbols to represent your pattern. If you know standard notation for writing music you may use it. Create iconic notation for your pattern that someone who can't read music would be able to follow.

**Step 3:** Play your pattern with the instrument you made.

Step 4: Share your pattern with someone else.

Play the pattern together.



What did you like about your

about your pattern and why?

Change your pattern and play

your instrument again. How is

your first pattern connected to

your second pattern?

pattern? What would you change

#### **Grades K-3**

Grades 4-8

What is the same about the sounds you hear from each rubber band? What is different about the sounds you hear from each rubber band? What part of the instrument vibrates (moves back and forth) to create sound?

What part of the instrument

vibrates to create sound? How

does the size and thickness of

notice? How does the size and

thickness of your rubber band

What do you think would happen if you used a different object

(such as a paper clip) to pluck

the rubber band? Give it a try! What do you notice? How do the

What part of the instrument

vibrates to create sound? How

does the size and thickness of

your rubber band affect what

How does the size and thickness

of your rubber band affect the

sounds you hear? What do you

clip) to pluck the rubber band?

What do you notice? How do the

sounds compare? How does the

sound compare to the sounds of

other instruments you've made

Draw an initial model that

explains how you are able to

hear the sound created by your

think would happen if you used a different object (such as a paper

sounds compare?

Grades 9-12

you notice?

Give it a try!

this week?

chordophone.

affect the sounds you hear?

your rubber band affect what you

Grades 4-8 How does changing the material the drum is made out of affect what you notice? How did changing the container affect the sounds you hear? How do the objects you used to strike the drum affect the sound?



#### Grades 9-12

How does changing the material the drum is made out of affect what you notice? How did changing the container affect the sounds you hear?

How do the objects you used to strike the drum affect the sound? How does the sound compare to the sounds of other instruments you've made this week?

Draw an initial model that explains how you are able to hear the sound created by your drum.

#### Grades 4-8

How is the straw flute able to produce sound? How do you think you can change the sound your straw makes? Record your ideas.

#### How does the sound compare to the sounds of other instruments

**Grades K-3** 

you've made this week? Grades 4-8

What is the same about the

sounds you hear? What is differ-

ent about the sounds you hear?

How does changing the tempo affect what you notice? How did changing the container affect the sounds you hear? How do the objects interact with the container to create sound?

### Grades 4-8

**Grades K-3** 

Play your pattern on two different instruments.

What did you like about your pattern? Did your pattern sound better on one instrument compared to the other?

What would you change about your pattern and why? Change your pattern and play your instrument(s) again.

# Grades 9-12

How is the straw flute able to produce sound? How do you think you can change the sound your straw makes? Record your ideas. Explain using pictures and words.



## Grades 9-12

How does changing the tempo affect what you notice? How did changing the container affect the sounds you hear? How do the objects interact with the container to create sound? How does the material the containers and the objects are made of affect the sounds you hear?

#### Grades 9-12

Play your pattern on two different instruments. Play your pattern with two instruments at the same time or have someone else play along with you.

What did you like about your pattern? What would you change about your pattern and why? Change your pattern and play your instrument again.



#### **Extension activities**

If you have a chordophone at home, how does the instrument produce sound?

How does the sound it produces compare to the sound of your handmade chordophone?

There is a banjo factory located right here in San Diego County.

Watch a short video on the history of Deering Banjos, https:// www.deeringbanjos.com/pages/ about-us

Did you know pianos have strings

Watch the videos on the Brains On webpage to see how the inside of a piano works, https://www.brainson.org/shows/2017/04/11/howdo-pianos-work

Explore the connection between music and mathematics by watching the Ted Ed video "Music and math: The genius of Beethoven," https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=zAxT0mRGuoY

#### **Extension activities**

Explore the Chrome Music Lab Rhythm Experiment, https:// musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Rhythm/

Create signature dance moves! Put together a coordinated dance routine to perform while playing you drum! Teach your dance to other people and have them join the performance.

#### **Extension activities**

Add another straw — slide it inside the straw you cut. As you blow into the straw flute, push and pull the second straw. How does the movement of the second straw affect the sound you create?

What do you think would happen if you made the straw shorter? Give it a try. Cut your straw and try it again.

Roll a piece of paper to create a cone. Place your straw flute inside. How does the cone change the sound of your straw flute?

#### **Extension activities** Make a plastic egg maraca. Fill a

plastic egg with small objects. Shake the egg. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Now create handles for your maraca by placing the egg between two spoons. Tape or rubber band the spoons in place by taping around the top of the spoon (the part with the egg) and around both handles. Shake your plastic egg maraca again. How does adding handles change the sound?

Explore the Chrome Music Lab Song Maker Experiment, https:// musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Experiments

#### **Extension activities**

Create two separate patterns for two separate instruments. Play your patterns with two instruments at the same time or have someone else play along with you. What do you think about how the patterns played simultaneously sounded? Is there anything you would change about one or both of the patterns you created?

Create patterns for additional instruments. How many can you play at one time? What do you notice about the sounds of the instruments when played together versus played individually?

Explore the Chrome Music Lab Kandinsky Experiment, https:// musiclab.chromeexperi-

