

Activity 4

THE SCIENCE BIT



Thanks for helping me with my family band curiosity challenge.

I've been so impressed with all your hard work!

Before I head off to play some tunes with my family, I thought I would share some fun facts about the instruments we have made.

STRING INSTRUMENTS

Musicians make sounds on a string instrument by creating vibrations through rubbing a bow against them, striking them, or plucking them. Long, thick and loose strings vibrate slower and make lower sounding notes, short, thin and tight vibrate faster and make higher sounds. The sound is amplified (made louder) by a soundbox or resonator. It is often the largest part of the instrument and includes a sound board which is usually made from a type of wood that vibrates.



WIND INSTRUMENTS

Wind instruments usually involve blowing air through the instrument to cause a vibration that creates a sound. Often, by changing where the air can escape (by covering finger holes) you can change the notes produced by the instruments. You can make your own wind instruments out of all sorts of things in your household – take a look on YouTube for some really wacky ideas you could try, including making a slide whistle out of a carrot!



PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

Percussion instruments make sound by being hit, shaken or scraped to create a vibration that will travel outwards. Often, a percussion instrument will be hollow, which will amplify the sound that is made. The reverberations of sound waves inside the instrument will build up to produce a greater sound. Normally they are untuned instruments, although you can change the sound that is made by changing an aspect of the instrument, for example it's shape or material.

