

Musical Instruments



Musical instruments make different sounds. Some instruments are plucked. Other instruments are blown into, or hit with a beater.

Stringed Instruments

Stringed instruments make a sound when their strings are plucked. This makes the strings vibrate.





There are three ways to change the pitch of a guitar.

1) Thinner strings are higher pitched.

2) Shorter strings are higher pitched. The guitar neck has frets on it to alter the length of the string.

3) Tighter strings are higher pitched.





Plucking Strings of a Different Length
*Click the speaker to listen to the sounds of the strings.
What do you notice?*

Only - For Preview Actions disabled

The diagram shows six string instruments arranged in a row, increasing in length from left to right. Each instrument has a wooden body with a yellow dot representing a string. The string length increases from left to right. Below each instrument is a small speaker icon.

Wind Instruments

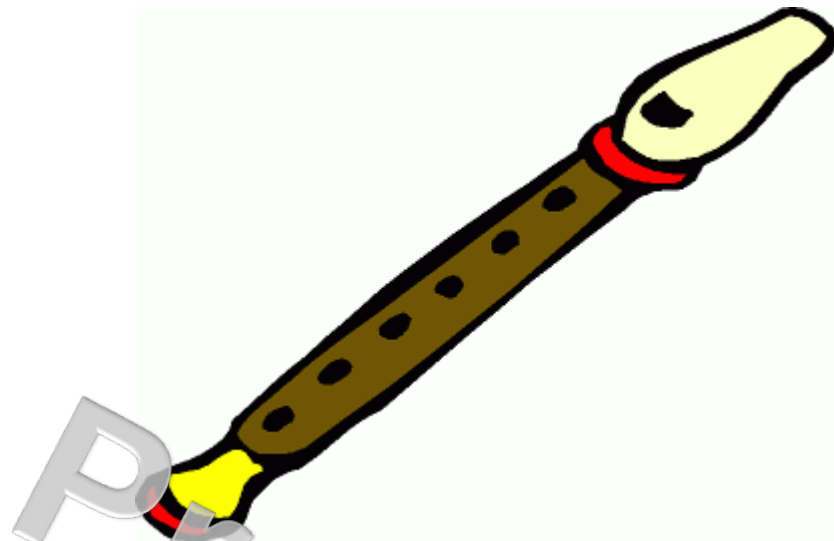


Lower pitch



Higher pitch

Wind instruments make a sound because the air inside is made to vibrate. If you blow across the top of a bottle with some water in it, the air inside the bottle is made to vibrate and a sound is heard. The pitch of the sound depends on the amount of water in the bottle.



A wind instrument that allows you to play different sounds of pitches is the recorder. The pitch is changed by placing your fingers on one of the holes. This changes the length of air inside the recorder which is recording. The loudness is changed by blowing harder or softer.



A Drum



The pitch of a drum depends on the size of the drum. A large drum will be lower in pitch because there is more skin to vibrate. The pitch can also be changed by tightening or loosening the skin.