

Rainbow Readers

Title: A World of Instruments

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

tapping	bamboo	design	unique	lasting
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1. Bamboo is light and strong, so it is good for making furniture.
2. Bats are unique; they are the only mammals that can fly.
3. Someone was lightly tapping on my door.
4. Some companies are trying to design a flying car.
5. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami has had lasting effects on the region.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. The earliest flutes were played in the same way as modern flutes. T / F
2. All modern flutes are made of either bamboo or metal. T / F
3. Some people put bells on camels. T / F
4. The bells used at Buddhist temples had a shorter sound. T / F
5. Ancient instruments sounded as good as modern orchestras. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. The idea for the first flute may have come from (a plant / a bird).
2. Early horns were likely used to make (music / noise).
3. A painting of people playing (horns / bells) was found in Tutankhamun's tomb.
4. (Hunters / Soldiers) may have been the first to make string instruments.
5. People are still trying to make (violins / horns) like Stradivari did.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. What was the 40,000-year-old flute made from?

- a. Wood
- b. A bone
- c. Bamboo
- d. A shell

2. What was unique about China's early bells?

- a. Their shape
- b. Their size
- c. Their loudness
- d. Their purpose

3. Which instruments are mentioned as being part of very old stories?

- a. Harps
- b. Pipes
- c. Flutes
- d. Horns

4. Which is NOT mentioned as something used to play string instruments?

- a. Picks
- b. Fingers
- c. Bows
- d. Hammers

5. Where was the violin invented?

- a. China
- b. Egypt
- c. Italy
- d. France

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

chimes	tombs	orchestras	shells	string
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Since it wasn't written down, no one knows for sure how music started. But we know people made musical instruments very long ago because some of them have been found. There are also pictures of them on old tombs. One of the oldest instruments is the flute. The first flutes were likely held in front of the mouth instead of to the side. Now there are many different kinds. Bells and chimes were used in China at least 2,200 years ago, and they have not changed that much. Old horns are harder to find because many were probably natural objects like shells. In the 1800s Europeans developed new types of horns that were better for making music. String instruments are also very old. The idea for them may have come from the sound a bow and arrow makes. They may be played with a hammer, the fingers, or a bow. Today, orchestras bring together all these types of instruments and more.