Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Music Box Remembers a Song

Circle group

Inside a music box is a small metal drum. It spins. It has tiny pins on it.

Next to the drum is a metal comb. The comb has thin teeth. Each tooth is a different size. A short tooth makes a high note. A long tooth makes a low note.

You turn the key. The drum spins. A pin bumps a tooth. The tooth buzzes. That is one note. Then the next pin bumps the next tooth. The notes make a tune.

The pins stay in the same spots. So the music box plays the same tune each time.

Questions

1. What has tiny pins on it?

_____

_____

2. What do the pins bump?

_____

_____

3. What note does a short tooth make?

_____

_____

4. What do you turn to make the drum spin?

_____

_____

5. Why is the tune the same each time?

_____

_____

Words to know

drum: a round part that spins like a barrel
pins: tiny metal bumps
comb: a strip with thin teeth in a row
tune: a group of notes that make a song

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Music Box Remembers a Song

Triangle group

Inside a music box, a small metal drum spins around. The drum is covered with tiny bumps called pins.

Next to the drum is a metal comb. The comb has thin teeth. Each tooth has a different length. A short tooth makes a high note. A long tooth makes a low note.

When you turn the key, the drum begins to spin. A pin bumps a tooth, and the tooth buzzes. That makes one note. The next pin bumps the next tooth. Soon the notes make a tune.

The pins are placed in just the right spots. That is how the music box remembers its song. It plays the same tune every time.

Questions

1. What is covered with tiny pins?

_____

_____

2. What do the pins bump?

_____

_____

3. What kind of note does a short tooth make?

_____

_____

4. What do you turn to make the drum spin?

_____

_____

5. Why does a music box play the same tune every time?

_____

_____

Words to know

drum: a round part that spins like a barrel
pins: tiny metal bumps
comb: a strip with thin teeth in a row
tune: a group of notes that make a song

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Music Box Remembers a Song

Square group

Inside a music box, a small metal drum spins around and around. The surface of the drum is covered with tiny bumps called pins.

Right beside the drum sits a metal comb with a row of thin teeth. Every tooth has a different length. A short tooth produces a high note, while a long tooth produces a low note.

When you wind the key, the drum begins to rotate. A pin catches a tooth, and the tooth buzzes, which makes a single note. Then the next pin bumps the next tooth. Before long, the notes join together into a tune.

The pins are placed in exactly the right spots, and that is how a music box remembers its song. Because the pins never move, it plays the very same tune every single time.

Questions

1. What is the surface of the metal drum covered with?

_____

_____

2. What do the pins catch as the drum turns?

_____

_____

3. What kind of note does a short tooth produce?

_____

_____

4. What do you wind to make the drum rotate?

_____

_____

5. Why does a music box play the same tune every single time?

_____

_____

Words to know

drum: a round part that spins like a barrel
pins: tiny metal bumps
comb: a strip with thin teeth in a row
tune: a group of notes that make a song

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How a Music Box Remembers a Song

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How a Music Box Remembers a Song

Easier · 99 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.4

1. The metal drum.
2. The teeth of the comb.
3. A high note.
4. The key.
5. The pins stay in the same spots and bump the teeth in the same order.

Triangle: How a Music Box Remembers a Song

This passage · 113 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.8

1. The metal drum.
2. The teeth of the metal comb.
3. A high note.
4. The key.
5. The pins stay in the same spots, so they bump the teeth in the same order.

Square: How a Music Box Remembers a Song

Harder · 133 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. Tiny bumps called pins.
2. The teeth of the metal comb.
3. A high note.
4. The key.
5. The pins never move, so they bump the teeth in the same order.