Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Bars and Long Bars on a Xylophone

Circle group

A xylophone has flat bars in a row. The bars go from short to long. You hit them with soft mallets.

The shortest bar plays the highest note. The longest bar plays the lowest note. The bars in the middle play notes in between.

Why? A bar shakes when you hit it. A short bar shakes fast. A long bar shakes slow. A fast shake makes a high sound. A slow shake makes a low sound.

Under each bar is a hollow tube. It helps the sound ring out and get louder.

Questions

1. How are the bars lined up?

_____

_____

2. What do you hit the bars with?

_____

_____

3. Which bar plays the lowest note?

_____

_____

4. What does a bar do when you hit it?

_____

_____

5. Why does a short bar sound higher?

_____

_____

Words to know

xylophone: an instrument with wooden or metal bars that you hit
mallets: small hammers with soft heads, used to play music
hollow: empty inside

bars: long, flat pieces

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: _____

Short Bars and Long Bars on a Xylophone

Triangle group

A xylophone is made of flat bars in a row. The bars are lined up from short to long. You hit them with soft mallets.

Look at the shortest bar. It plays the highest note. Now look at the longest bar. It plays the lowest note. Every bar in the middle plays a note in between.

Why does this work? When a bar is hit, it shakes very fast. A short bar shakes faster than a long bar. A fast shake makes a high sound. A slow shake makes a low sound.

Under each bar is a tube or a hollow space. It helps the sound ring out and grow louder. That makes the xylophone sound clear and bright.

Questions

1. How are the bars on a xylophone lined up?

_____

_____

2. What do you use to hit the bars?

_____

_____

3. Which bar plays the lowest note?

_____

_____

4. What happens to a bar when it is hit?

_____

_____

5. Why does a short bar make a higher sound than a long bar?

_____

_____

Words to know

xylophone: an instrument with wooden or metal bars that you hit
mallets: small hammers with soft heads, used to play music
hollow: empty inside
bars: long, flat pieces

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: _____

Short Bars and Long Bars on a Xylophone

Square group

A xylophone is built from a row of flat bars that are arranged in order from the shortest to the longest. A musician strikes the bars with soft mallets to make music.

The shortest bar plays the highest note, and the longest bar plays the lowest note. Every bar in the middle plays a note somewhere in between.

This works because of how the bars move. When a bar is struck, it vibrates very quickly. A short bar vibrates faster than a long bar. A fast shake makes a high sound, and a slow shake makes a low sound.

Beneath each bar there is a tube or a hollow space. It helps the sound ring out and grow louder, which makes the xylophone sound clear and bright.

Questions

1. How are the bars of a xylophone arranged?

_____

_____

2. What does a musician use to strike the bars?

_____

_____

3. Which bar plays the lowest note?

_____

_____

4. What does a bar do when it is struck?

_____

_____

5. Why does a short bar make a higher sound than a long bar?

_____

_____

Words to know

xylophone: an instrument with wooden or metal bars that you hit
mallets: small hammers with soft heads, used to play music
hollow: empty inside
bars: long, flat pieces

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: Short Bars and Long Bars on a Xylophone

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

Circle: Short Bars and Long Bars on a Xylophone

Easier · 92 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.3

1. From short to long.
2. Soft mallets.
3. The longest bar.
4. It shakes.
5. It shakes faster, and a fast shake makes a high sound.

Triangle: Short Bars and Long Bars on a Xylophone

This passage · 119 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.9

1. From short to long.
2. Soft mallets.
3. The longest bar.
4. It shakes very fast.
5. A short bar shakes faster, and a fast shake makes a high sound.

Square: Short Bars and Long Bars on a Xylophone

Harder · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.1

1. In order from the shortest to the longest.
2. Soft mallets.
3. The longest bar.
4. It vibrates, or shakes, very quickly.
5. A short bar shakes faster, and a fast shake makes a high sound.