Name: _____ Date: _____

Why a Cello Is Bigger Than a Violin

Circle group

A violin and a cello are a lot alike. Both have strings. Both have a wooden body.

A violin is small. A player holds it under the chin. A cello is big. A player sits and rests it on the floor.

Short strings make high sounds. Long strings make low sounds. The violin has short strings. It sounds high and bright. The cello has long strings. It sounds deep and warm.

A band can use both. They sound good together.

Questions

1. Where does a player hold a violin?

_____

_____

2. Where does a cello rest when it is played?

_____

_____

3. What sound do short strings make?

_____

_____

4. Which one has a deep, warm sound?

_____

_____

5. Why is the cello lower than the violin?

_____

_____

Words to know

strings: thin cords that make sound when they are plucked or rubbed
violin: a small wooden instrument that is played under the chin
cello: a large wooden instrument that is played sitting down
deep: low in sound

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: _____

Why a Cello Is Bigger Than a Violin

Triangle group

A violin and a cello look a lot alike. Both have strings and a smooth wooden body. But the two are not the same size.

A violin is small. A player holds it under the chin. A cello is much bigger. A player sits down and rests it on the floor.

The size changes the sound. Short strings make high sounds. Long strings make low sounds. The violin has short strings, so it sings with a high, bright voice. The cello has long strings, so it hums with a deep, warm voice.

Many bands use both. The high violin and the low cello play together and sound rich and full.

Questions

1. Where does a player hold a violin?

_____

_____

2. Where does a cello rest while it is played?

_____

_____

3. What kind of sound do short strings make?

_____

_____

4. Which instrument has a deep, warm voice?

_____

_____

5. Why does a cello sound lower than a violin?

_____

_____

Words to know

strings: thin cords that make sound when they are plucked or rubbed
violin: a small wooden instrument that is played under the chin
cello: a large wooden instrument that is played sitting down
deep: low in sound

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: _____

Why a Cello Is Bigger Than a Violin

Square group

A violin and a cello resemble each other in many ways. Both of them have strings, and both have a smooth, curved wooden body. Even so, the two instruments are very different in size.

A violin is quite small, so a musician holds it tucked under the chin. A cello is far larger. The musician has to sit in a chair and rest the instrument on the floor while playing it.

The size of an instrument changes its sound. Short strings make high sounds, while long strings make low sounds. Because the violin has short strings, it sings with a high, bright voice. Because the cello has long strings, it hums with a deep, warm voice.

Many bands use both instruments, and when the high violin and the low cello play together, the music sounds rich and full.

Questions

1. Where does a musician hold a violin while playing it?

_____

_____

2. Where does a cello rest while a musician plays it?

_____

_____

3. What kind of sounds do short strings make?

_____

_____

4. Which instrument has a deep, warm voice?

_____

_____

5. Why does a cello sound lower than a violin?

_____

_____

Words to know

strings: thin cords that make sound when they are plucked or rubbed
violin: a small wooden instrument that is played under the chin
cello: a large wooden instrument that is played sitting down
deep: low in sound

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: Why a Cello Is Bigger Than a Violin

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

Circle: Why a Cello Is Bigger Than a Violin

Easier · 80 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.5

1. Under the chin.
2. On the floor.
3. High sounds.
4. The cello.
5. Its strings are longer, and long strings make low sounds.

Triangle: Why a Cello Is Bigger Than a Violin

This passage · 110 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. Under the chin.
2. On the floor.
3. High sounds.
4. The cello.
5. Its strings are longer, and long strings make low sounds.

Square: Why a Cello Is Bigger Than a Violin

Harder · 138 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. Tucked under the chin.
2. On the floor.
3. High sounds.
4. The cello.
5. Its strings are longer, and long strings make low sounds.