Name: _____ Date: _____

Pipes Tall as Trees: How an Organ Breathes

Circle group

A pipe organ may be the biggest instrument in the world. In a big church or hall, its pipes climb the wall like metal trees. Some are thin as a pencil. Some are taller than a house. One person plays it all from the keys.

An organ has no strings to pluck. It has no drums to hit. It uses air. A blower pushes wind into a big box. The player presses a key. A small door opens. Wind rushes into one pipe. The pipe hums, like when you blow across a bottle.

The size of the pipe sets the note. Short pipes make high, light notes. Long pipes make deep, rumbling notes. Each key opens its own pipe.

An organ also has knobs called stops. A stop picks a row of pipes with one tone. One row sounds like a flute. One sounds like a trumpet. So one player can make the organ sound like many instruments.

Questions

1. What does an organ use to make sound?

_____

_____

2. What pushes wind into the box?

_____

_____

3. What happens when a key is pressed?

_____

_____

4. Which pipes make deep notes?

_____

_____

5. What is a stop?

_____

_____

6. Why can one player sound like many instruments?

_____

_____

Words to know

pipe organ: a huge instrument that makes sound with air in pipes
blower: a machine that pushes air
rumbling: making a low, rolling sound
stops: knobs on an organ that choose which pipes play

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: _____

Pipes Tall as Trees: How an Organ Breathes

Triangle group

A pipe organ may be the largest instrument in the world. In a big church or hall, its pipes can climb the wall like a forest of metal trees. Some are as thin as a pencil, while others are taller than a house. Yet the whole giant is played by one person sitting at keys.

An organ does not have strings to pluck or drums to hit. It uses air. A blower pushes wind into a large box. When the player presses a key, a small door opens, and wind rushes into one pipe. The air makes the pipe hum with sound, much like blowing across the top of a bottle.

The size of a pipe decides the note. Short pipes make high, light notes. Long pipes make deep, rumbling ones. Because each key opens its own pipe, a player can make a huge range of sounds.

An organ also has knobs called stops. Pulling a stop selects a whole row of pipes that share a special tone. One row may sound like a flute, and another may sound like a trumpet. By choosing different stops, the player can make the organ sound like many instruments, even though only one set of keys is being played.

Questions

1. What does an organ use to make sound?

_____

_____

2. What pushes wind into the large box?

_____

_____

3. What happens when the player presses a key?

_____

_____

4. Which pipes make deep, rumbling notes?

_____

_____

5. What is a stop on an organ?

_____

_____

6. Why can one player make the organ sound like many instruments?

_____

_____

Words to know

pipe organ: a huge instrument that makes sound with air in pipes
blower: a machine that pushes air
rumbling: making a low, rolling sound
stops: knobs on an organ that choose which pipes play

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: _____

Pipes Tall as Trees: How an Organ Breathes

Square group

A pipe organ may well be the largest instrument in the world. Inside a grand church or concert hall, its pipes can climb the wall like a forest of metal trees. Some are as slender as a pencil, while others tower above a house. Remarkably, this whole giant is played by a single person seated at the keys.

An organ has no strings to pluck and no drums to strike. Instead, it relies on air. A blower forces wind into a large box. When the player presses a key, a small door opens, and wind rushes into a single pipe. The air makes the pipe hum with sound, much as it does when you blow across the top of a bottle.

The size of a pipe determines its note. Short pipes produce high, light notes, whereas long pipes produce deep, rumbling ones. Since each key opens its own pipe, a player can create an enormous range of sounds.

An organ is also equipped with knobs called stops. Pulling a stop selects an entire row of pipes that share a distinctive tone. One row may resemble a flute, and another may resemble a trumpet. By choosing different stops, the player can make the organ imitate many instruments, even though only one set of keys is being played.

Questions

1. What does an organ rely on to make sound?

_____

_____

2. What forces wind into the large box?

_____

_____

3. What happens when the player presses a key?

_____

_____

4. Which pipes produce deep, rumbling notes?

_____

_____

5. What is a stop on an organ?

_____

_____

6. Why can a single player make the organ imitate many instruments?

_____

_____

Words to know

pipe organ: a huge instrument that makes sound with air in pipes
blower: a machine that pushes air
rumbling: making a low, rolling sound
stops: knobs on an organ that choose which pipes play

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: Pipes Tall as Trees: How an Organ Breathes

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

Circle: Pipes Tall as Trees: How an Organ Breathes

Easier · 158 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. Air.
2. A blower.
3. A small door opens and wind rushes into one pipe.
4. The long pipes.
5. A knob that picks a row of pipes with one tone.
6. Each stop picks a row of pipes with its own tone.

Triangle: Pipes Tall as Trees: How an Organ Breathes

This passage · 206 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. Air.
2. A blower.
3. A small door opens, and wind rushes into one pipe.
4. The long pipes.
5. A knob that selects a row of pipes with a special tone.
6. Different stops pick different rows of pipes, and each row has its own tone.

Square: Pipes Tall as Trees: How an Organ Breathes

Harder · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. Air.
2. A blower.
3. A small door opens, and wind rushes into a single pipe.
4. The long pipes.
5. A knob that selects a row of pipes sharing a distinctive tone.
6. Different stops select different rows of pipes, and each row has its own tone.