

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

A Bit of History

Guitar: there is evidence that an ancient form of guitar existed in the Middle East from approximately 1000 BC. The modern acoustic guitar was created in 1850 by Antonio de Torres, a Spanish instrument maker. The electric guitar was designed in 1935 by Rickenbacker.

Saxophone: the Belgian Adolphe Sax invented the saxophone in 1841. He patented it in 1846 and spent the following eleven years practising and studying the instrument before he could teach how to use it to his students of the Conservatory of Paris.

Piano: in 1710 the Italian Bartolomeo Christofori designed a keyboard joined to tiny hammers which hit metal strings. He named his creation pianoforte, Italian for soft and strong.

Flute: the first flutes were made of sheep tibiae with holes on one side.

Harp: it is the oldest instrument with taut strings that produces sound by plucking. The origin is still a mystery but it dates approximately from 3000 BC in Egypt and the Mesopotamia.

Harmonica: the German Christian Friedrich Ludwig Buschmann invented it in 1821. A device made to study the influence of air in sound formation resulted in the first harmonica.

Accordion: the instrument we know was conceived in Vienna in 1829. However, it seems that it had already existed in China many years before that.

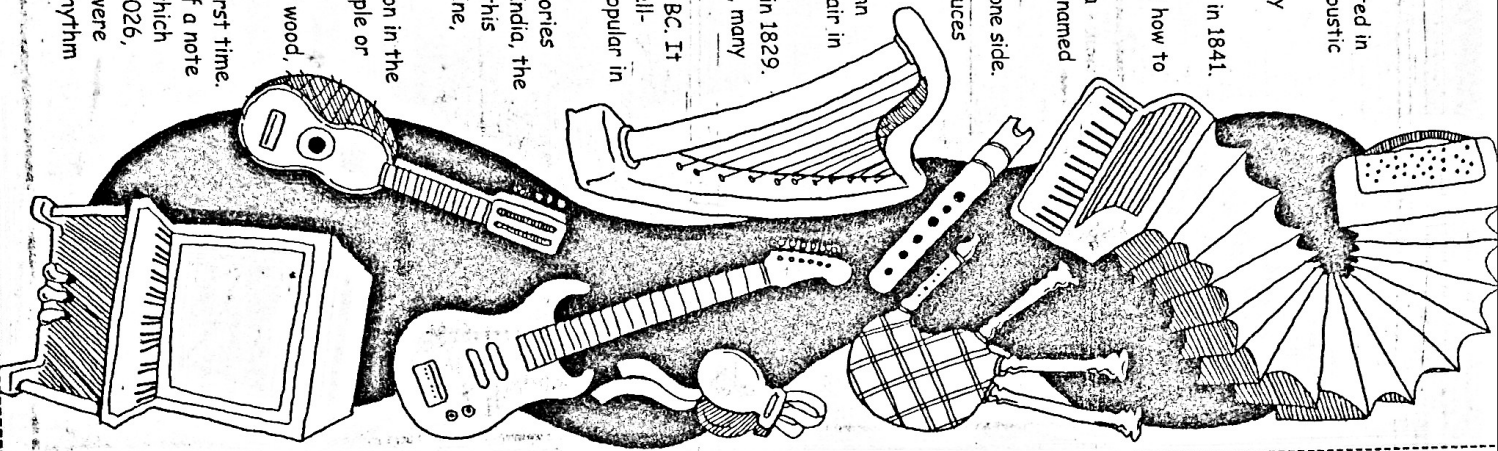
Castanets: this instrument of percussion goes back to 1000 BC. It was created by the Phoenician people. It consists of two shell-shaped pieces of wood tied by a lace at the top. It is very popular in Spain.

Bagpipes: the origin of the bagpipes is vague. There are theories that place this instrument many centuries before Christ in India, the Arabic mainland and in Egypt. Nowadays many cultures play this instrument; it is very popular in Scotland, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Israel, Arabia and India.

Queña: it is originally from South America, especially common in the Andes area. In the beginning it was made of bones from people or animals. Nowadays reed is used.

Charango: it is very popular in South America. It is made of wood, but in the beginning armadillo shells were used.

Writing music: in 500 BC the Greeks wrote music for the first time. They wrote lines of alphabetic signs so the musicians knew if a note should be played high or low. The symbols called "neumes", which represent notes or group of notes, appeared in 650 AD. In 1026, Guido d'Arezzo introduced a system by which the "neumes" were placed below or above a line to show the tone of the note. Rhythm and movement appeared in the XVI century.



A) Complete the puzzle.

REFERENCES

- M: instrument invented by Buschmann.
- U: it is very popular in South America.
- S: surname of the designer of the saxophone.
- B: Bartolomeo Christofori created this device.
- C: they are very popular in Spain.
- A: first name of the man who designed the modern acoustic guitar.
- L: Bartolomeo Christofori's nationality.
- I: instrument invented in Vienna in 1829.
- N: it is similar to a small guitar, popular in South America.
- S: violins, guitars and harps have got them.
- T: the first ones were made of bones.
- R: it is the oldest instrument with strings.
- U: the first ones appeared in the Middle East in 1000 BC.
- M: Christofori designed a keyboard with these things which hit metal strings.
- E: the ones who wrote lines of alphabetic signs for the first time.
- N: clarinet, saxophones, queñas and bagpipes belong to this group of instruments.
- T: bones used to make flutes many years ago.
- S: pianos, drums and castanets are in this group.

B) Read the sentences and write down the instrument that is described.

1) It has got finger-holes and keys.

2) It is made of reed and the performer has to blow through it.

3) It is like a pipe with holes and a mouth-hole on the side.

4) A large musical instrument with strings stretched on a triangular frame.

5) Round plates.

6) They are shell-shaped pieces of wood.

7) It has got wooden or metal bars mounted on a frame.

C. Describe the following instruments. You can use a dictionary.

1) Piano:

U
S
I
C
A
L

I
N
S
T
R
U
M
E
N
T
S

2) Bass drum:

3) Accordion:

4) Charango:

D. Write T (true) or F (false). Correct the false

☐ 1) The first flutes were made of reed.

☐ 2) The queña is a woodwind instrument.

☐ 3) Bagpipes are used in Argentina, Chile and

☐ 4) The charango is popular in Europe.

☐ 5) Adolphe Sax invented the guitar.

☐ 6) The modern acoustic guitar was created Antonio de Torres.

the Italian in 1710. The first flutes were made of sheep tibiae with holes on one side. The harp is the oldest instrument with taut strings that produces sound by plucking. The origin is still a mystery but it dates approximately from 3000 BC in Egypt and the Mesopotamia. The German Christian Friedrich Ludwig Buschmann invented it in 1821. A device made to study the influence of air in sound formation resulted in the first harmonica. The instrument we know was conceived in Vienna in 1829. However, it seems that it had already existed in China many years before that. This instrument of percussion goes back to 1000 BC. It was created by the Phoenician people. It consists of two shell-shaped pieces of wood tied by a lace at the top. It is very popular in Scotland, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Israel, Arabia and India. The origin of the bagpipes is vague. There are theories that place this instrument many centuries before Christ in India, the Arabic mainland and in Egypt. Nowadays many cultures play this instrument; it is very popular in Scotland, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Israel, Arabia and India. It is originally from South America, especially common in the Andes area. In the beginning it was made of bones from people or animals. Nowadays reed is used. It is very popular in South America. It is made of wood, but in the beginning armadillo shells were used. In 500 BC the Greeks wrote music for the first time. They wrote lines of alphabetic signs so the musicians knew if a note should be played high or low. The symbols called "neumes", which represent notes or group of notes, appeared in 650 AD. In 1026, Guido d'Arezzo introduced a system by which the "neumes" were placed below or above a line to show the tone of the note. Rhythm and movement appeared in the XVI century.

List three very famous *Argentinian* bands or singers of today.

List four very famous foreign bands of today.

Do you think it is okay or not to download music?

Imagine you can meet a very famous singer or band: who is it?

Do you usually buy albums online or CDs from the store?

Do you prefer music in English or in your own language? Why?

Do you download music?

How often do you listen to music?

**Do you play a music instrument?
Which instrument? Can you play well?**