

## History of music

People have been making music for as long as they've been around. Of course, in the old days, it was done differently than now.



### Prehistoric times

The first people probably made music by **drumming** on things with their hands or **sticks**. And by blowing on the horns of dead animals. They also used their voices.



### Ancient Egypt

In ancient Egypt, music played an important role. People would **sing** and **dance** to honor the gods. Musicians were very important in Egypt.

*Did you know*  
the oldest instrument ever found is 43,000 years old? It's a flute made from animal bone.

### Middle Ages

During this time, music was mostly made in church. But there were also traveling musicians who used their songs to tell people stories and news. These musicians were called **minstrels**.



*Did you know*  
in the Middle Ages, only men were allowed to sing in church?



### Wig Time

In the classical music era, important people often had their own orchestras that played music on special occasions. Kings also had a **court composer**, someone who wrote music especially for them.

## Types of instruments

There are thousands of different musical instruments in the world. We divide them into four groups:

**String instruments**, such as the violin, guitar, and double bass, are named for how they're played. The sound is made by plucking the strings or stroking them with a bow.

Instruments that you hit with your hands or with sticks to make sound are **percussion instruments**. The drum kit, xylophone, and church bells are part of that group.

**Wind instruments** make sound with blown air. Think of the trumpet and the flute, but also of the accordion and bagpipes.

A keyboard, a synthesizer (say "sin-thuh-size-er"), and a drum machine are **electronic instruments**. They need electricity to make sound.

*Did you know*  
the piano is a percussion *and* a string instrument? There are strings inside a piano's sound box. When you press a key, a hammer hits a string.

*Did you know*  
a bow is made from the hairs of a horse's tail?

