volume 2
issue 7

Horns: The Sound of the Wind

©2013 by ACE Foundation in Flickr. Some rights reserved http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en

First, you hear the drums pound. Then you hear the horns toot. Next, you see the marchers turn their heads from side to side, blowing a tune in time to the drums. There's a parade headed your way!

Horns are often played in parades because they make bright, happy sounds. What makes that sound? The wind does. In fact, horns are sometimes called wind instruments. That is because they make sounds when players blow into them.

Horns come in many sizes and shapes, but they are all shaped like tubes and have holes. Players blow air into the horn's mouthpiece. The air then flows through the tube and escapes through the holes. The escaping air is what makes the horn's sound. If the air travels only a short distance to the hole, it makes a high sound. If it travels a longer distance, it makes a low sound.

Horns are also part of the brass family of instruments. Today, brass instruments are made of brass, a metal made of copper and zinc. The first horns, though, were made from animal horns. By cutting off the tip of the horn and buzzing their lips, players could make a sound that could be heard far away. Later, horns were used in hunting. Hunting calls told what the hunter had found or where he or she was going.

The oldest brass instruments are the horn and the trumpet. These instruments also have the highest sounds. Modern members of the brass family include the French horn and the tuba. These instruments have lower sounds because their tubes are longer and wider than the tubes of horns and trumpets.

You can make a horn for yourself to toot. Take an empty paper towel roll, pull your lips together tightly so that only a little air can escape. Then make a buzzing sound into the roll. Pretty soon, people might be marching along to your music!

©2007 by Jason in Flickr. Some rights reserved http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/deed.en

For more information about TextProject and *FYI for Kids*, visit textproject.org
v.1.0 © 2013 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/).

Name _____

Horns: The Sounds of the Wind

Do you have a favorite musical instrument? Do you play an instrument? Which one is it? Write about the instrument you play or would like to play. Tell about the sounds the instrument makes and why this instrument interests you.

For more information about TextProject and *FYI for Kids*, visit textproject.org
v.1.0 © 2014 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/).
©2013 by ACE Foundation in Flickr. Some rights reserved http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en

Review

Horns: The Sound of the Wind

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.

For more information about TextProject and *FYI for Kids*, visit textproject.org
v.1.0 © 2014 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/).
Image ©2013 by ACE Foundation in Flickr. Some rights reserved http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en