

cricket

Spider

A Web of Creativity and Curiosity



WHAT'S IN



MUSIC ON THE MIND

How do you use music to express yourself?

Singing along to my favorite tunes makes me happy.

But it's annoying when one song gets stuck in my head.

Fun songs make me dance.

Sometimes, special songs even make me cry.

In this issue of *Spider*, meet an eight-year-old Grammy winner who loves rapping with her dad. See a shy monster go wild for rock and roll. Plus, make your own pan flute. Then match the instrument to its sound to solve a silly puzzle.

Rock on,
Stacey
Editor

P.S. What's your favorite song and why? Let us know at spider@cricketmedia.com.



IMAGINE THIS! ★

2 Nestor's Dock

6 Bill—The Perfectly Rotten Monster

16 Playing Like Pa

22 Piano Playing

28 The Sweetest Melody

Back Cover Marvin and Friends

Cover Art by Lorena Alvarez

Spider and the Gang by Michael Chesworth

SPIDER'S WEB



DISCOVER THAT!

- 8 Daddy-Daughter Duet
- 14 Big Music
- 24 Making Music Around the World
- 34 Ben Franklin's Favorite Invention
- 38 Language of the Lyrics
- 43 Great Guitar

TRY IT!

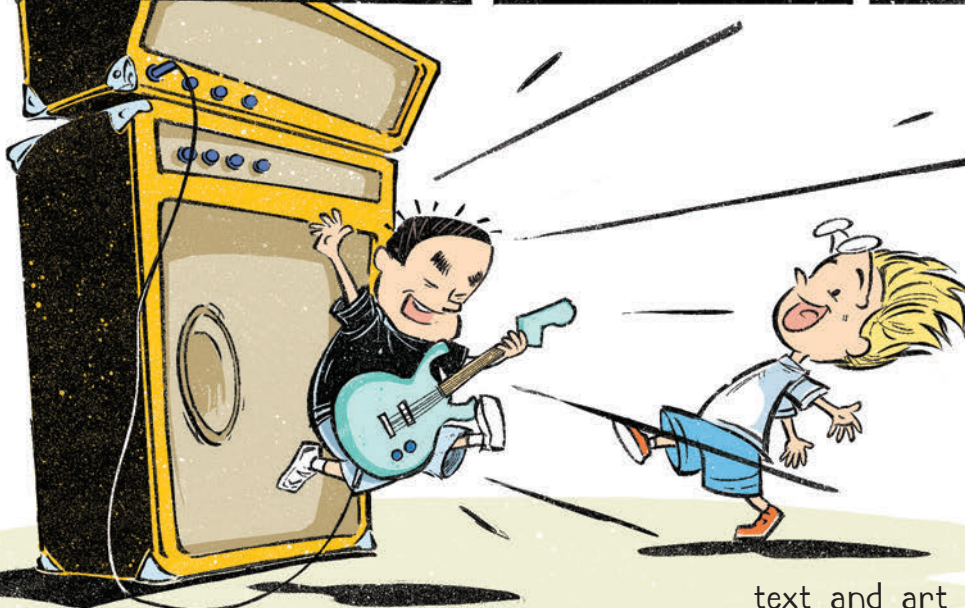
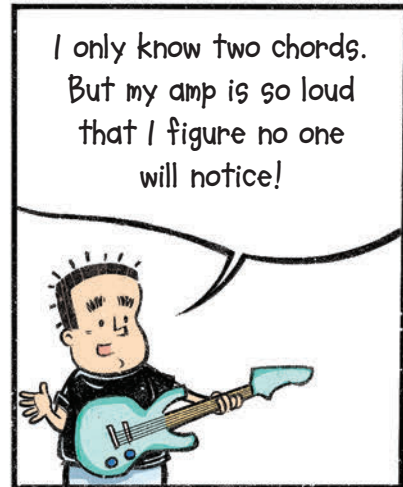
- 4 Musical Tongue Twisters
- 13 Musical Matchup
- 23 Band Blanks
- 26 The Math in Music
- 32 Snack Attack
- 36 Experimenting with Sound
- 37 Feline Find
- 42 Name That Tune
- 44 Ophelia's Last Word
- 45 Spider's Mailbox
- 46 Spider's Corner
- 48 Buggy Bulletin

The Fun Zone

Rock on!



NESTOR'S DOCK



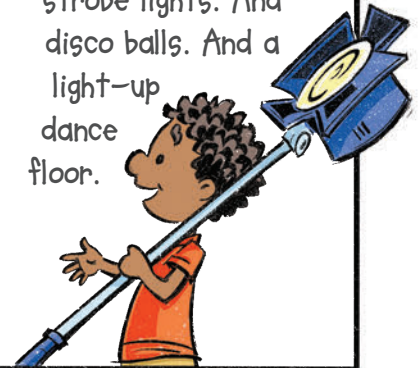
text and art by Jeffrey Ebbeler



I'll use this computer program to make you sound more in tune.



Next, we add a fog machine. Oh, and strobe lights. And disco balls. And a light-up dance floor.



We sound great!

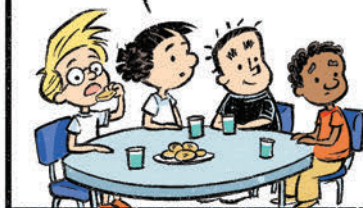
And we hardly practiced at all!



Snack break.



Where is that funky, cool music coming from?



We rock!

What should we call our band?

"The Who Needs People!"



MUSICAL TONGUE TWISTERS

by Danny Ray Roberts
art by David Habben

Try to say each tongue twister three times.
Go faster each time!



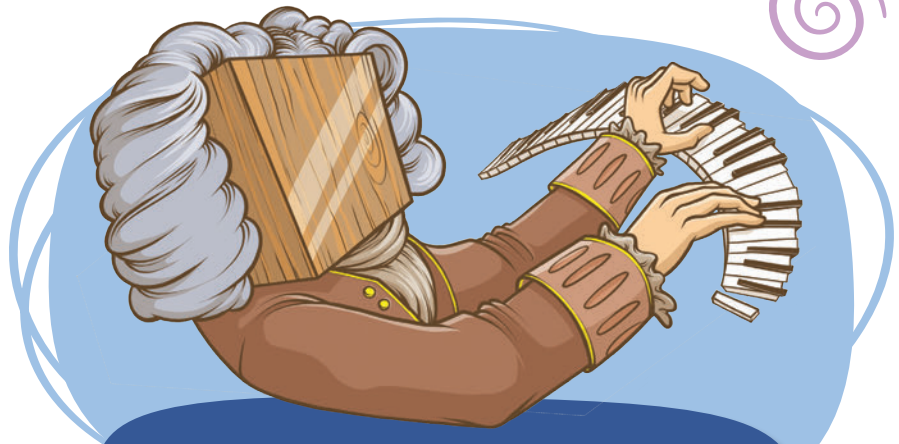
On Mars, says Lars,
guitars are cars.



Stan sang strong songs and
strummed strange strings.

BONUS CHALLENGES

- ⑨ Sing the tongue twisters.
- ⑨ Say them while dancing.
- ⑨ Say them in a robot voice.
- ⑨ Say them with your eyes closed.



How much Bach would a wood block
rock if a wood block could rock Bach?



The flute tree grows flute fruit,
while the lute tree grows lute fruit.

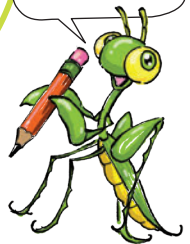
Make up your own tongue twister.
Then challenge your friend to say
it three times fast.



Piper packed piccolos for
pink-pocked pickpockets.



I like to use
words that rhyme
or start with the
same letter.



Bill-

The Perfectly Rotten Monster

by Judy Hindley, art by Tony DiTerlizzi

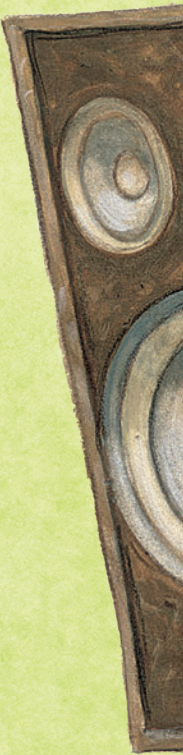
Bill was a good little baby.
He grew into a good little lad.
But all of Bill's family were monsters,
And good little monsters
Are BAD.

Yes, a monster is born to be scary.
A monster is meant to be wild!
But Bill was so gentle and tidy—
His parents despaired of their child.

"What happened to him?" cried his auntie.
"Just look at his sisters and brothers.
The rest of the family are horrid.
Why can't he behave like the others?"

He was scolded from evening to morning.
They hounded the lad out of doors.
"Where are the fangs you were born with?
Let's see you make use of those claws!"

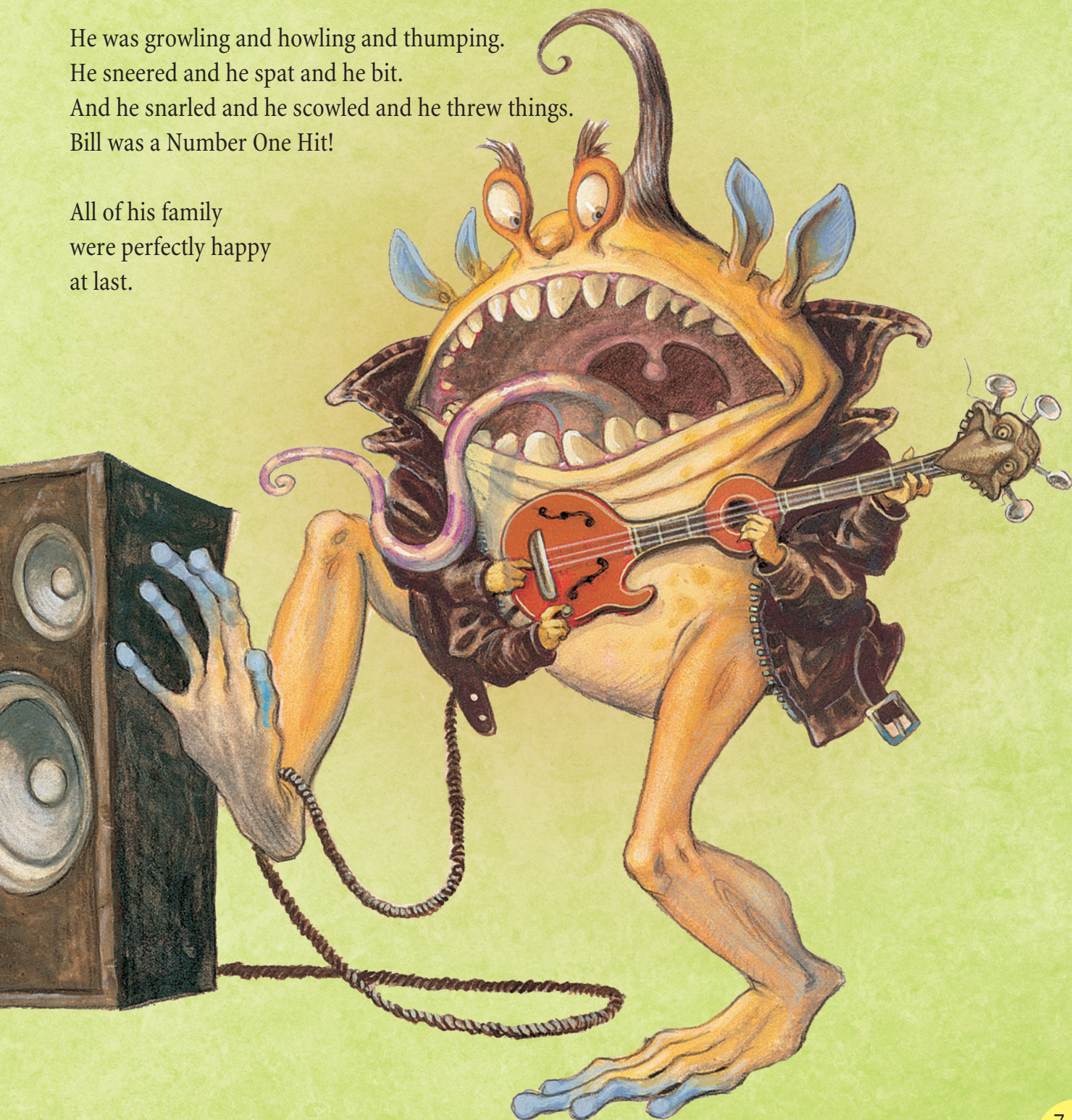
One evening, they found he was missing.
"We did all we could," said his dad.
"He was rotten at being a monster.
He'll never learn how to be bad."



But look what they saw shortly after.
Could this be the Billy they knew?
He was making a teeth-gritting racket—
A hideous hullabaloo!

He was growling and howling and thumping.
He sneered and he spat and he bit.
And he snarled and he scowled and he threw things.
Bill was a Number One Hit!

All of his family
were perfectly happy
at last.



DADDY-DAUGHTER DUET

by Stacey Lane

Fyütch

“Music is powerful and a great way to learn things,” believes hip-hop artist and teacher Fyütch.

But Fyütch had trouble finding new songs that his students wanted to play. So he wrote his own.

Aura

Fyütch sounds like “future” but without the “er” sound at the end.



Success in Schools

His students enjoyed his songs. “The music was catchy and fun. The lyrics were educational,” Fyütch explains.

So he made music videos. He put them online. Other teachers started playing Fyütch’s music in their classrooms.

Beginning Beats

Someone else was listening—his daughter, Aura.

“It was really cool to see him do beats on the beat machine with his headphones on, singing. Listening to music that he made, it just inspired me,” Aura says.

WHAT’S A STAGE NAME?

A stage name is a made-up name that a musician or actor goes by when they perform, instead of their real name.

Fyütch is the stage name of Harold Simmons II.

Make up your own stage name!

Better Together

When she was five, Aura wanted to make music too. So she and her dad started singing and rapping together.

They recorded their songs. Soon, they were performing all over the country.

Growing in the Spotlight

Now Aura is eight. “Her voice is stronger, and she can record music faster now,” Fyütch shares.

“She is more confident on stage,” he says. “She has more ideas in the studio. Now she tells me what she wants to say or how she wants to sing something.”



Triangle Twinkletoes!





Stage Fright

Aura used to get stage fright. But she usually doesn't anymore.

"I start telling myself to lock in and just stay calm," says Aura. **"Don't go too silly, and don't be too chill. Have good energy."**

Stories in Songs

Aura loves to sing and rap because **"It's like its own language. It tells a story."**

Their joyful songs tell stories about celebrating self-worth and getting along.

Aura's Goals

"I want people to feel like they should love themselves. I don't want people to feel sad all the time. That's just not right," Aura says.

"People should also be thankful for life. Because life is great."

Awesome Album

What began as a few songs grew into a full album. Fyütch and Aura named their album *Harmony*, after one of their songs.

Fyütch says, **"When I made the song 'Harmony,' many people said it made them cry. It's so simple but so powerful."**

Special Surprise

On November 7, 2025, Fyütch surprised Aura by picking her up from school.

They went home to watch the Grammy nominations together.



Popcorn or Prize?

Aura found out that *Harmony* was nominated for Best Children's Music Album.

She remembers, **"I started screaming and jumping. After, I said, 'Can I go back to school?' 'Cause I had a party that day and I didn't want to miss it. It was a movie and popcorn party."**

Making History with *Harmony*

Harmony won the Grammy on February 1, 2026. Aura became the youngest individually credited artist ever to win a Grammy.



She got a prize from her grandma?



No, the Grammys are big awards given each year to people who work in the music industry.



Awards are given in different categories.



Aura's Advice

To other kids who want to follow their dreams, Aura offers this advice: **"I just want to say right now, be positive. Try your best, and most importantly, have fun. Do stuff that makes you happy. Period."** 🐝

EARWORM? EW!

"I like catchy melodies that get stuck in my head," says Fyütch. "I want my songs to get stuck in your head too. Ha ha!"

So you might find yourself singing a song from *Harmony* long after the song is done.

WHAT?



A song that you can't get out of your head is called an earworm.

Ooh, I like it here. I'm staying.



WHY?

But why is it so easy for a tune to play on a loop in your brain? Songs use repetition, rhythm, and rhyme. That makes them easy to remember.



Your brain connects a song to a feeling. When you feel that way again, your brain may also bring back the song.

Usually, the whole song doesn't echo between your ears. Only a part of a catchy chorus does.

WHAT MAKES A SONG STICK?

Certain types of tunes tend to cause earworms.



- ★ heard a lot
- ★ easy to sing
- ★ simple but stands out
- ★ fast
- ★ repetitive
- ★ has a pitch that goes up and then down

Baby Slug, doo, doo, doo, doo, doo!



TIRED OF THAT TUNE?



Try these tips to get a song unstuck.

- ★ Listen to a different song.
- ★ Chew gum.
- ★ Do something that takes focus, like the puzzle on the next page!

To watch Fyütch and Aura's music videos, go with a grown-up to

<https://sensicaltv.com/aura>



No purchase required, free to access.



Musical Matchup



by Hayley Kim, art by Chris Robertson

To finish the story, draw a line to match the instrument on the left with the noise it makes on the right. Then fill in the blank spaces at the bottom by putting the letter from the right next to its match from the left.

INSTRUMENTS

R - maracas

C - trumpet

B - tambourine

N - drum

SOUNDS

jingle jingle jingle - **A**

ratta tat ratta tat - **D**

shikka shikka shikka - **O**

honk toot bwaaaa - **K**



Tyler Turtle plays the trumpet. Gloria Groundhog sings with grace. Together with their friends, they make music in a

R **C** **B** **N** **!**

Answer on page 48

BIG Mu

by Hugh Mongous

Musical instruments come in many sizes. You can fit a harmonica in your pocket. A concert grand piano is bigger than a queen-size bed. A few instruments are even too large for a person to play.



The wind plays **THE SINGING RINGING TREE**. Built of stacked steel pipes, the sculpture stands nearly 10 feet (3 meters) tall at the top of a hill in England. Its tune changes depending on which direction and how hard the wind blows.

sic



Wow! If wind and water can be musicians, I guess anybuggy can make music.



THE ZADAR SEA ORGAN
in Croatia looks like a wide set of white marble steps leading down to the sea. But hidden underneath the steps are 35 pipes connected to plastic tubes under the water. When waves push into the tubes, they push air through the whistle-like pipes to make beautiful music.

The world's largest instrument is—a cave!
THE GREAT STALACPIPE ORGAN in Virginia spreads across 3.5 acres (14,164 square meters). That's more than two football fields. One person can play it using a keyboard wired to 37 stalactites (the pointy parts hanging from the cave roof). Pressing a key causes a rubber hammer to tap a stalactite, making a musical sound. 🕷



PLAYING LIKE

I'll never play piano like my grandpa. Pa's fingers fly so fast you don't see them touch the keys. His hands tumble and leap. The notes spill from the piano faster than popcorn from a popper.

Pa has played at the Tulip Café for 49 years. He plays every Friday and Saturday night. Except the Friday night when Mom was born.



Tonight the Tulip is bursting with people. They cleared away the tables so more people could fit. Everyone has to hold their plates on their laps. They have to put drinks under their chairs. But nobody minds. It's a special night.

This is the last time my grandpa will play at the Tulip. Everyone is a little sad. Pa sits at the piano. He wipes his eyes with a handkerchief when he thinks nobody is watching.

Pa has to retire. His hands tremble sometimes. He uses a cane to walk to the



With a grown-up's help, check out the Reading Stars app for a read-along of this story, games, and more!



Roachio's party is tonight, and I still haven't decided what to play.



No need to tremble—shake from fear or weakness. Everybuggy will love whatever you play on the piano, Sonya.



Eh, piano music is so boring.



PA

by Pam Bachorz
art by Jada Rowland



Tulip. It takes him almost half an hour to get here. But it's less than three blocks from my grandparents' apartment.



Name a song. Any song. Pa will play it for you. Nobody can stump him. He has a music library in his head.

Jazz is his favorite. Whenever Pa rips into ragtime, I'm like a pot of water boiling over. I can't stop my toes a-tapping, fingers a-snapping, head bo-bopping to the beat.



All my aunts and uncles are at the Tulip tonight. So are all my cousins. My great-aunt Pauline came on the train all the way from Albany. We whoop and holler at the end of every song. Pa even plays the song with my name in it: "Stella by Starlight."

"**Stella by Starlight**" is a popular jazz song from a 1940s movie.

Challenge
a friend to see who can list the most songs with somebuggy's name in the title.

What about ragtime—a popular style of piano music with lively melodies and bouncy rhythm that was started in America in the late 1800s?



I've got a better idea to get this party pumping. Come with me, Spider!

Try it!

Play a piano
or type your
name using a
computer
keyboard.



Pa has been teaching me piano ever since I was five. He's taught me chords. So I can make any song sound fancy.

Sometimes, Pa balances nickels on the backs of my hands. That keeps my fingers curved and my hands level. He listens while I practice for a half hour. Every single day. I make mistakes. But Pa never says anything. He just reads the newspaper. Sometimes, he smiles.

Some days, I want to quit. I tell Pa that I'm no good at piano. But he says, "You're hot stuff. One day you'll be better than me." So I keep practicing. Other times, the notes just flow. My mind stays quiet while my fingers do all the work. That's when Pa says, "Not bad, kid. Not bad." Then I know I've hammered it home.



Tonight people keep stopping by to talk. They leave money—even some twenties—in a jar on top of the piano. They want Pa to leave with a pocketful of tips. A few women even kiss Pa on the cheek. He winks at them. "He always was a handsome devil," I hear Grandma whisper.

Now try
it again while
balancing a nickel
on the back of each
hand. Did the nickels
help you keep your
hands level?

What ol' Roachio's party
needs is the toe-tapping
twang of my banjo.



And I reckon I can
fiddle around on
this here fiddle.



This is a classy event, and
I was planning to play solo.
But we'll give it a try.



I'm finishing my dessert when Pa surprises me. "Ladies and gentlemen." His voice shakes a little. But it's still strong. "I have a special treat for you tonight. Please welcome my granddaughter Stella Babcock to the piano!"

I drop my spoon. I duck low. What's Pa thinking?

I can't play in front of all these people!

Cousin Amy pokes me. "Get up there already, Stella," she orders in a no-nonsense voice. "Do it for Pa."



My rubbery legs take me to the piano. Pa's big hands grip my shoulders. He gently pushes me onto the piano bench. My fingers settle around middle C.



Let's start on middle C—the note on sheet music that is between the treble and bass staff. It's a key near the center of the piano.



I don't follow notes. I follow my heart.



Yeah, I just make stuff up as I go.



You're having a jam session? I'll grab my drums.





How many keys are on a standard piano?

For the answer, figure out what number rhymes with **WEIGHTY STATE**.

Answer on page 48

“I can’t,” I say. I’m not like Pa. People won’t like what I play. They might laugh.

“Play something you love,” Pa whispers in my ear.

But I can’t remember a single song. I wish I knew my grandpa’s favorite, “Mood Indigo.” It is by the jazz great Duke Ellington. Pa makes it his last song every night.



I close my eyes. I try to pretend there aren’t dozens of people staring at me. Pa keeps his hands on my shoulders. They feel warm, strong, and steady. I’m the one trembling now.

I play one note, the D next to middle C. Then my fingers remember. A song rushes through me: one of Bach’s Two-Part Inventions. It’s not jazz. But it’s fast. It’s tricky. Pa always smiles when I play this one.



One note tumbles out. Then another. The music pushes my hands across the piano, with no mistakes. It’s not like jazz bubbling under my skin. This song is a cool river running inside me. My fingers ripple and flow over the rocky black keys.

Aunt Diann hollers, “You go, Stella! You’re on fire!”

Oh, my doggy ran away,
so I’m cryin’ rivers today.



Stop! We can’t all play different songs at the same time. How about we try Bach’s Two-Part Inventions—a group of short pieces written around 1720 by German composer Johann Sebastian Bach for his students?



I don’t care what we play as long as eet ’as a 20-minute drum solo.



I only perform my own original songs.



Everyone is cheering for me. I stand up. I hug my grandpa hard. He turns me to the audience. I give them a little wave. I say, "Thanks, folks," just like Pa.

I'll never play piano like my grandpa. But that's OK. Because I can play like me, Stella Babcock. Just the way Pa taught me. 🕷️



Then it's settled! I'm playing Bach, and you three are playing nothing.



Buh-bye! Good luck carrying your piano all by yourself to Roachio's.



...Fine! I don't 'ave time to play at Roachio's party anyway. I'm serving zee food.



Piano Playing

by Raven Howell
art by Agnès Ernoult

When I first play
The notes sound thin,
A *plunk*, a *plink* when I begin.

Still I practice once again
Until the song becomes a friend,
And soon bright melodies awake
In nimble dances fingers make.

Once tunes were timid as a mouse.
Now symphonies
Sweep through the house!



Band Blanks



by Libby Madding, art by Pixxera

SONG

Grab a pencil and a pal. Ask your friend for words to fill in the blank spaces. But don't let your buddy see this page. Then read your goofy story together.

Pick a place.

The _____ is having a talent show. My friends and I decide to start a _____

place

kind of music

I'm the lead singer. _____ plays the _____.

name

instrument

different name

_____. We name our band _____. We write an awesome _____.

different instrument

any word any word

song about a _____ who wishes it could _____. We're inspired by _____.

animal

action

_____. We practice and practice until our _____s hurt.

fairy tale title

body part

On the night of the talent show, my band wears matching _____.

color

_____. From backstage, we watch the act before us. A clown juggles _____.

clothing type

a _____, a _____, and a _____ while whistling _____.

fruit

tool

toy

song title

Then it's our turn. We step onto the stage. I feel _____ when I look out _____.

mood

into the _____ audience and see _____ people. I shout, "_____." We play _____.

size

number

any word

our song. The crowd goes wild. They dance and _____. We take a bow.

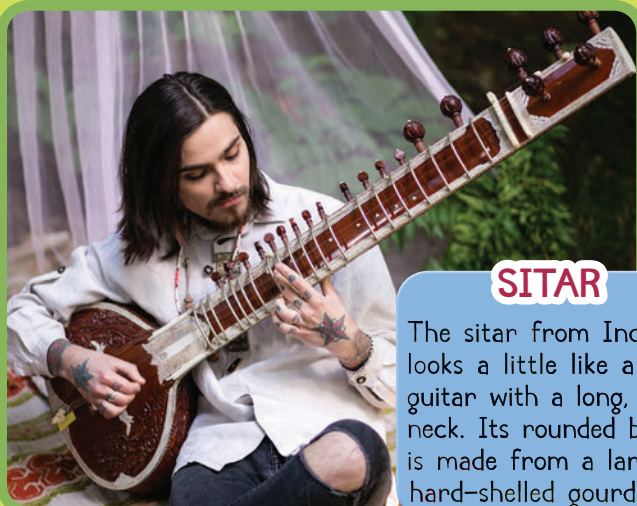
action

ROCK

Making MUSIC Around the WORLD

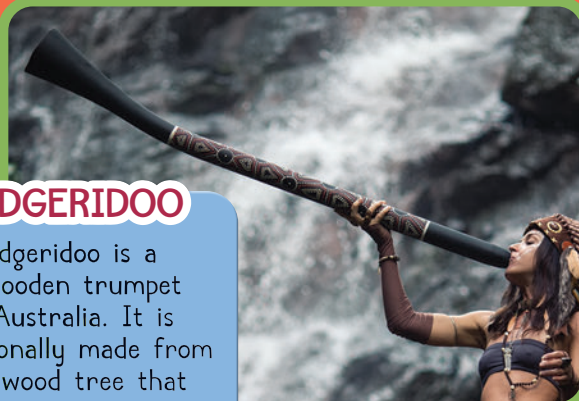
by Cosmo Pauly Tan

All over the world, people love making music. But the instruments they play may not be ones you know. Can you imagine what sounds these instruments make?



SITAR

The sitar from India looks a little like a guitar with a long, long neck. Its rounded body is made from a large, hard-shelled gourd.



DIDGERIDOO

The didgeridoo is a long wooden trumpet from Australia. It is traditionally made from a hardwood tree that has been hollowed out by wood-eating termites.



SHOFAR

A shofar is an ancient kind of trumpet made from the horn of an animal, usually a ram. Today, shofars are mostly blown as part of important Jewish holidays.



ERHU

Like a violin, the Chinese erhu is played with a bow. But it rests on the player's lap instead of her shoulder. It has two strings instead of a violin's four.



TAIKO

Japanese taiko drums come in many sizes. They are often played with sticks and have two drumheads.

BONANG

A bonang is one of the main instruments in an Indonesian gamelan orchestra. It consists of small metal gongs arranged in two rows on a wooden stand.



Check out *todos los instrumentos increíbles*. Which one would you like to try?

I want to play them all . . . at the same time!



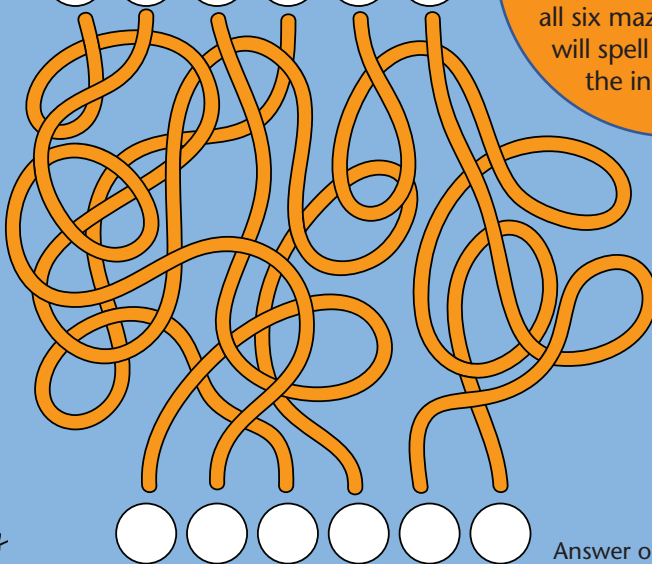
ODD

The oud has been played for thousands of years in the Middle East and North Africa. It has a big, pear-shaped body made of wood and a short, smooth, bent neck. Most ouds have 11 strings.



Musicians play this drum from West Africa with their hands. They can produce different notes by using different parts of the hand to hit different spots on the drumhead. 🦋

M J D E E B



Starting at each letter on the top, follow the maze to the bottom. Write that letter in the connected circle. When you've solved all six mazes, the letters will spell the name of the instrument.

Answer on page 48

The MATH

by Addie Tally, art by Heidi Graf

Math and music have a lot in common. If you like to do math puzzles, you'll enjoy figuring out rhythms in music. Want to give it a try?

Here are some things you need to know.

○ is a whole note.

♪ is a half note. There are two half notes in one whole note.

$$\text{♪} \text{♪} = \text{○}$$

♩ is a quarter note. There are two quarter notes in one half note.

$$\text{♩} \text{♩} = \text{♪}$$

♫ is an eighth note. There are two eighth notes in one quarter note.

$$\text{♫} \text{♫} = \text{♩}$$



in MUSIC

Can you figure this out?

1. How many  are in one ?

2. How many  are in one ?

3. How many  are in three ?



Write a rhythm pattern!

Sing the words to “Hickory, Dickory, Dock.” Tap the beat as you sing. Now look at this rhythm pattern:

Hic ko ry, dic ko ry, dock.



4. How do you think the next line is written? Do you spot a pattern? What would you put in the blank spot?

The mouse ran up the clock.



Hickory, dickory, dock.
These mice rock around the clock.



The Sweetest Melody



by Lydia Nearing, art by Craig Spearing



Long ago, there lived a shah of Persia. He was curious about the world. He often thought in riddles.



One day, the shah was holding court with four of his advisers. They were discussing grand ideas and hard questions. “What is the sweetest melody?” he asked.

The first adviser answered. “Without question, the melody of the flute is the sweetest. It trills like a bird in a blossoming tree.”

The second adviser spoke up. “No. No. No. You have it wrong. The melody of the harp is by far the

I can't believe Roachio doesn't have a piano here and now you two are the entertainment at the Meadow's fanciest party.



We got this. It's not like we're playing for the shah of Persia—old title for the ruler of Iran. We're just playing for a roach.



Yeah, a supercool roach who's holding court—being the center of attention among fans.





sweetest. It sounds like the music that is played in heaven.”

The third adviser butted in. “You are both barking up the wrong tree. In all the universe, the melody of the guitar has the finest tone. It can play loudly and boldly. It can play softly and gently. It makes you feel as if someone were strumming your own heart.”

The three advisers looked at the shah. Which of them was right? But the shah was looking at his fourth adviser. Merza Zaki sat very still. He said nothing. The shah sent them all from the room.

Which
adviser do
you think is
right?

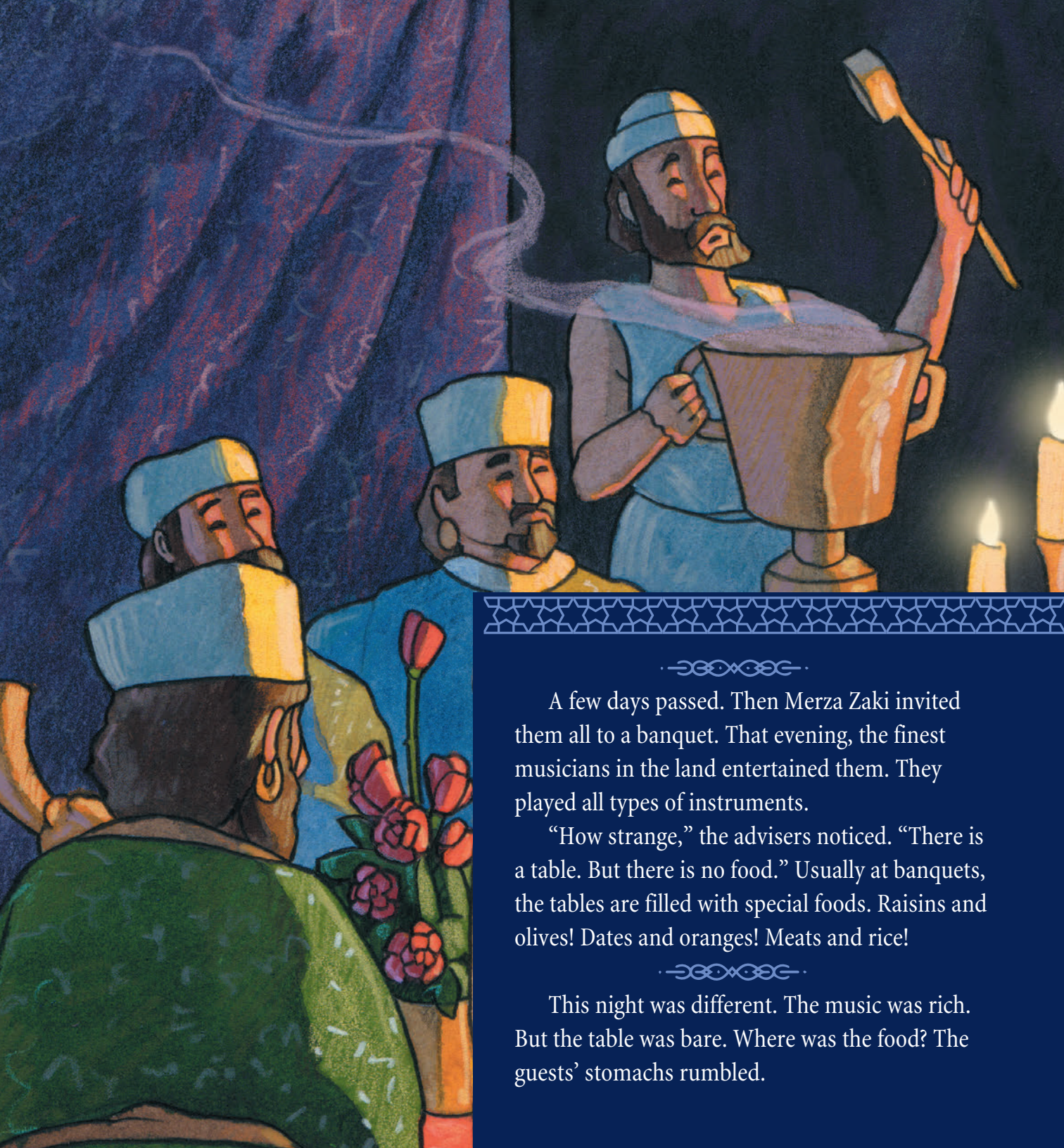


Thank you for performing
at my party.



Here's a little ditty we wrote
just for you . . . just now.



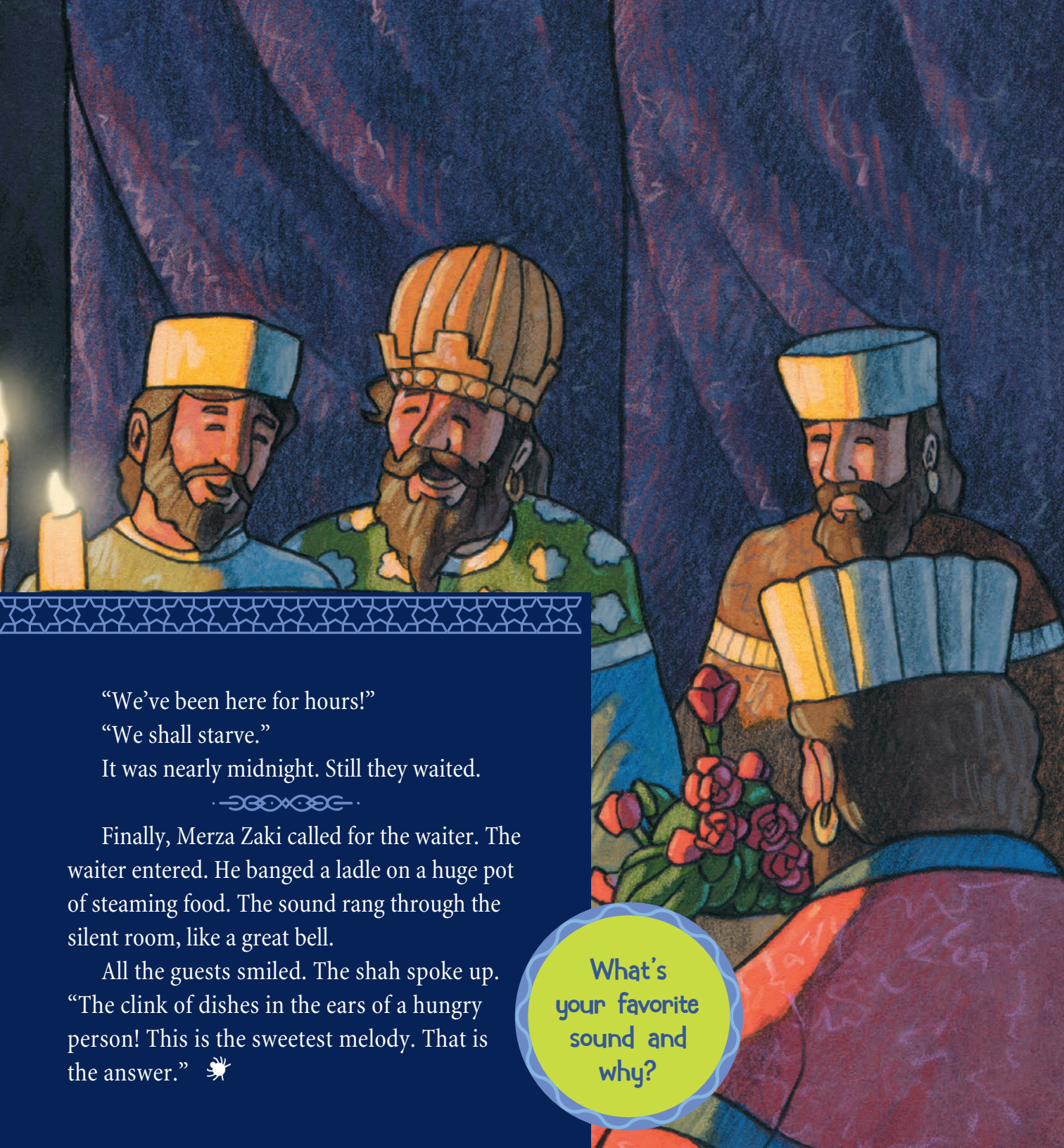


A few days passed. Then Merza Zaki invited them all to a banquet. That evening, the finest musicians in the land entertained them. They played all types of instruments.

“How strange,” the advisers noticed. “There is a table. But there is no food.” Usually at banquets, the tables are filled with special foods. Raisins and olives! Dates and oranges! Meats and rice!

This night was different. The music was rich. But the table was bare. Where was the food? The guests’ stomachs rumbled.





“We’ve been here for hours!”

“We shall starve.”

It was nearly midnight. Still they waited.



Finally, Merza Zaki called for the waiter. The waiter entered. He banged a ladle on a huge pot of steaming food. The sound rang through the silent room, like a great bell.

All the guests smiled. The shah spoke up. “The clink of dishes in the ears of a hungry person! This is the sweetest melody. That is the answer.” 🕸

What’s
your favorite
sound and
why?



Welp, there went our audience!



SNACK ATTACK

by Julianne Marlaire, art by Michael Chesworth

Sing and dance to Spider and the Gang's new song while you whip up this crunchy, munchy snack mix.

What You'll Need zipper bag



Pick and choose between

dried fruits

like raisins, apples, apricots, pineapple, cranberries, dates, mangoes, and/or bananas



chocolate

and/or carob chips



shredded coconut



nuts

like almonds, walnuts, and/or peanuts



seeds

like sunflower and/or pumpkin



cereal

oat, corn, rice, and/or wheat



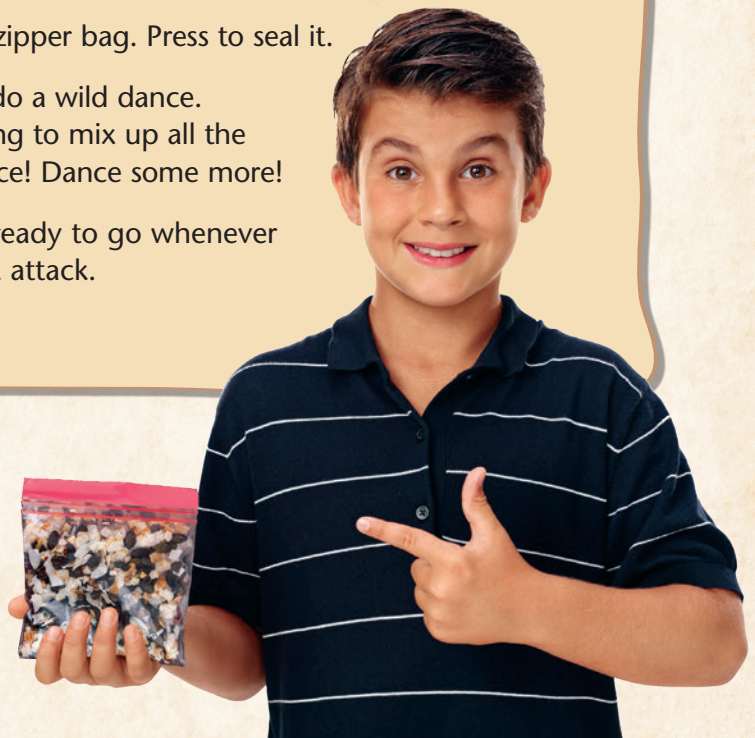
Ooo Weee - We Want some Munchies!
Oh ya - We want some Snacks!



! We want something that's Crunchy!
We've got a Snack Attack!

What to Do

1. Choose which ingredients you'd like to use. You can use them all or just a few. Make it your own! What will make your taste buds sing?
2. Put the ingredients in a zipper bag. Press to seal it.
3. While holding the bag, do a wild dance. Keep dancing and shaking to mix up all the ingredients. Dance! Dance! Dance some more!
4. Your tasty snack mix is ready to go whenever you get hit with a snack attack.

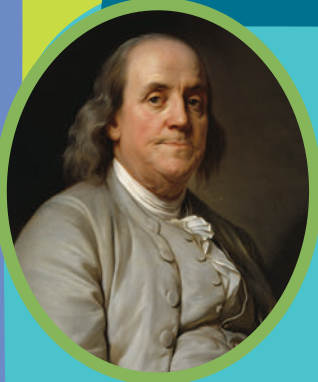


BEN FRANKLIN'S Favorite Invention

Have you ever rubbed a wet finger around the rim of a glass? If you do it just right, it makes a loud tone. It sounds like a bell or a ghost.

In 1757, Ben Franklin visited London. There he went to an unusual concert. Music was played on water glasses. He loved the sound! It gave him an idea for a new instrument.

WHO'S BEN FRANKLIN?



- ☐ A. inventor
- ☐ B. writer
- ☐ C. scientist
- ☐ D. leader
- ☐ E. musician
- ☐ F. all of the above

If you answered F, you're right!



Ben Franklin (1706–1790) helped found the United States. He set up schools, a fire department, and America's first library and hospital. He invented a special kind of eyeglasses. He did experiments with

electricity. He shared his wisdom and wit through his writing. His face is on the \$100 bill!



Hi!
I'm Ben. Today I want to show you my favorite invention—my glass armonica!



What kind of instrument would you like to invent?



A tambourine that I can play with my feet!



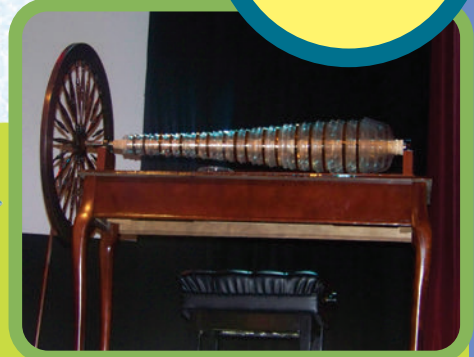
An underwater horn that blows bubbles!



by Liz Huyck
art by Adam Larkum

Sit here. Work
this pedal. That spins
the glass bowls. Press
your fingers against the
rims. Each bowl size
plays a different
note.

Do you
see the glass
bowls?



Goals and Bowls

He had a glassmaker make a set of glass bowls of different sizes. Each had a hole in the middle.

Then he stacked the bowls with some cork in between. He ran a metal pole through the center holes. He set the stack sideways in a tray of water. That kept the glass wet. A foot pedal turned a wheel to spin the stacked glass bowls.

Interesting Instrument

Many people admired the glass armonica. Mozart and Beethoven wrote music for it. Even the queen of France bought one.

Franklin spent many happy hours playing his armonica with family and friends. He once said that “of all my inventions, this has given me the greatest satisfaction.” 🐞

Mozart and Beethoven
are famous classical
composers. Many consider
them the best writers of
music in history!



Experimenting with SOUND

by Ruth Tenzer Feldman

art by Chad Thompson

Make music using glasses of water. Ben Franklin would be impressed!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- glass goblets (glasses that have a thin stem and a foot)
- pitcher of water

WHAT TO DO

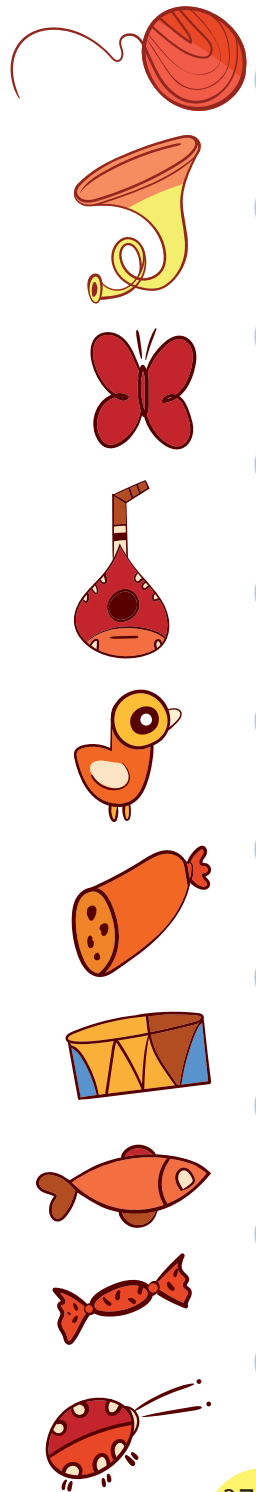
1. With a grown-up's help, place the glasses in a row on the table.
2. Wet your index finger. With your other hand, hold the stem of one glass at the bottom. Move your wet finger around the rim of the glass. Do you hear a sound? Can you feel the glass vibrate?
3. Put some water into that glass.
4. Move your wet finger around the rim again. How did the sound change?
5. Fill the first glass in the row almost to the top with water. Put a little less water in the second glass. Continue adding a little less water to each glass so each glass has a different water level.
6. Using different glasses to play different notes, make up your own song. Practice. Then perform it for your family or friends.



Feline Find

by Tabby Brown, art by Lyudmyla Kharlamova

Help the cat chorus find their missing things. The 10 things shown on the side of the page are hidden somewhere in this picture.



Answers on page 48

LANGUAGE of the LYRICS

by Delores Lee and Hayley Kim

MOANA 2 - © 2024 Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Moana's story is inspired by Polynesian myths.

Have you seen *Moana*?

Then you know that the songs are not just sung in English.

That's thanks to Opetaia Foa'i. He's on a quest to share real Pacific Island culture with the world. Opetaia wrote music for *Moana*, *Moana 2*, and the live-action *Moana*.

"It's very important to me to write using Pacific Island languages in a Polynesian movie," he says.

"I think the listener appreciates that it adds authenticity to the film."



Cultural authenticity is about making sure that a group of people is shown in a true and respectful way.



Say it like this:
Opetaia (Oh-Peh-Tie-Uh)
Foa'i (Foe-AH-Ee)

FINDING JOY

Opetaiia was born on an island nation in the Pacific Ocean called Samoa. “Growing up in a very poor environment, I was lucky if I got three meals a week,” Opetaiia remembers.

His family worked hard. But music made them happy. He says, “I saw the whole village celebrating by singing and dancing until the early hours.”

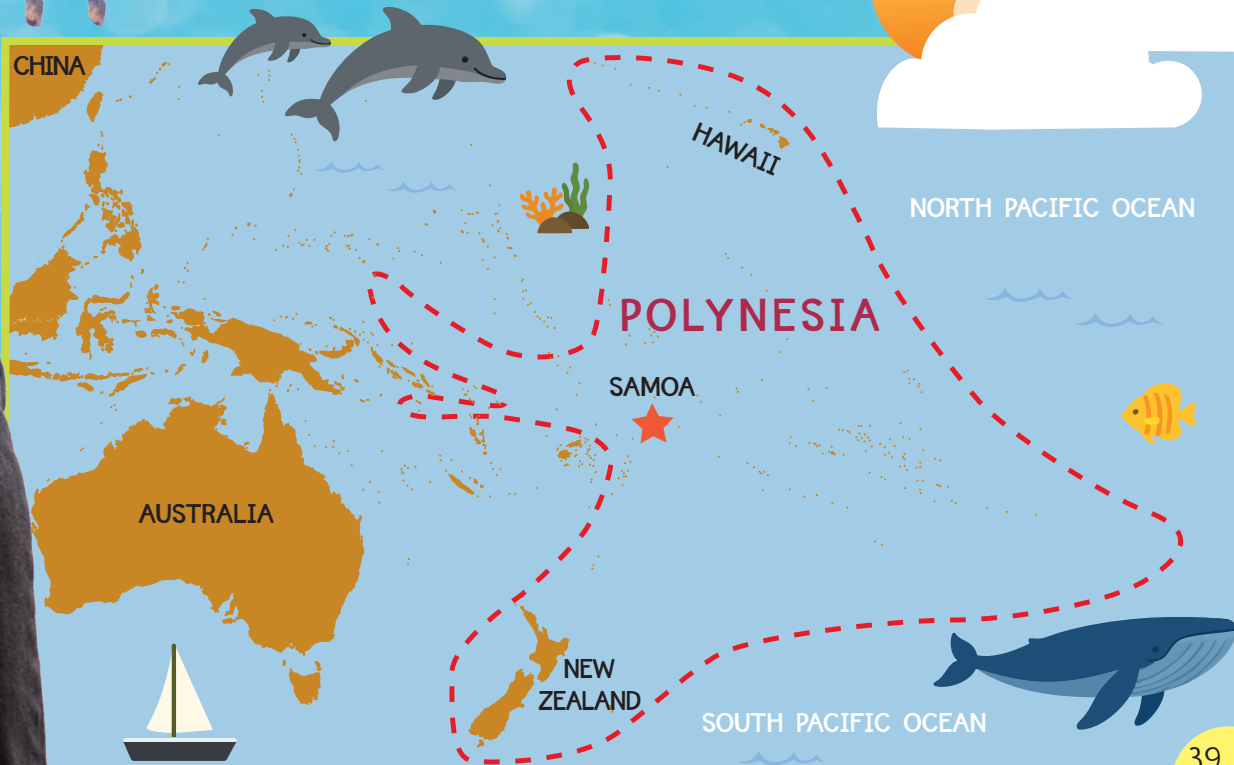
TELLING STORIES

Opetaiia wants to honor his people. He knows music is the way.

“It was never a matter of choice,” says Opetaiia. “Music ideas come naturally to me as a way to tell stories.”

WHAT IS POLYNESIA?

A group of over 1,000 Pacific Islands in the Pacific Ocean is known as “Polynesia.” But each island has its own language, music, traditions, and history.





THE CANOE

Opetaiia started a band. The band is named Te Vaka. Te Vaka means “The Canoe.”

Opetaiia writes songs and sings in four different languages. Te Vaka tours the world. They’ve even performed at the Olympics twice.

Opetaiia says that there’s “a lot of laughter and love between the group.”

FAMILY BAND

Opetaiia’s children are in his band.

“It’s awesome,” he says. “The music that my children are creating warms my heart. It’s obvious that they love and are proud of their cultural traditions.”



Olivia,
Opetaiia’s daughter,
sings and dances
with Te Vaka.

FUN FACT

Opetaiia’s daughter’s voice is the first voice you hear in *Moana*.

Along with music, Te Vaka uses special dances and costumes to tell stories.



Opeteia plays the log drum.



SUPER SOUNDTRACKS

Te Vaka sings, chants, and drums for all three *Moana* soundtracks.

Opeteia shares that for the live-action *Moana*, “We have just completed a very exciting recording week with my group Te Vaka. I’m very proud. Introducing Pacific culture to the world and giving inspiration to millions is a huge win.”

Photo courtesy of Disney. © 2026 Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Catherine Laga'aia on the set of Disney's live-action *Moana*.

POLYNESIAN MUSIC OFTEN USES

-  chants
-  clapping
-  log drums
-  sharkskin drums
-  conch shells
-  gourds
-  tapping sticks

What things found in nature can you turn into instruments?

MEANING IN THE MUSIC

When you listen to songs in different languages, you may not understand every single word. But the feelings still come through loud and clear. 🌟

Singing in my native language helps me feel closer to my family.



NAME THAT TUNE

text and art by Leah Palmer Preiss

What song is the animal orchestra playing?
To find out, turn the magazine counterclockwise.



Answer on page 48

GREAT GUITAR

by Ellen R. Braaf
art by Marnie Galloway

Cool guitar, Briar!
Hey! Do you
know who invented
the guitar?

Good question, Sage.
Guitars didn't really have
one inventor. Like many
instruments, they developed
over a long time.

From what? A stick
and a string?

Close! People have been playing
stringed instruments for thousands
of years. Every place and time
has come up with their own kinds.

Changes made by many people gave us
the guitars we play today.

Strings over a
hollow box make
a neat sound.

With a flat neck,
I can play chords.

Bow Harp
(North Africa)

Tanbur
(Asia)

Oud (Middle East)

Theorbo (Europe)

Tar (Iran)

Pipa (China)

Lute
(Europe)

Where did the
curvy guitar
shape come from?

Curvy lutes with many
strings were played
in Spain in the 1500s.
Then someone made a
smaller lute with fewer
strings. People sang
as they played the
smaller kind.

La!
La! La!

Later, people
changed the
body shape
to give the
guitar a
better tone.
They also
added more
strings.

What about
electric guitars?

In the 1930s, musician George
Beauchamp and electrical engineer
Adolph Rickenbacker had an idea.
They turned the vibrations of
strings into electric signals.
The signals went to a speaker.
Electric guitars can get
REALLY LOUD.

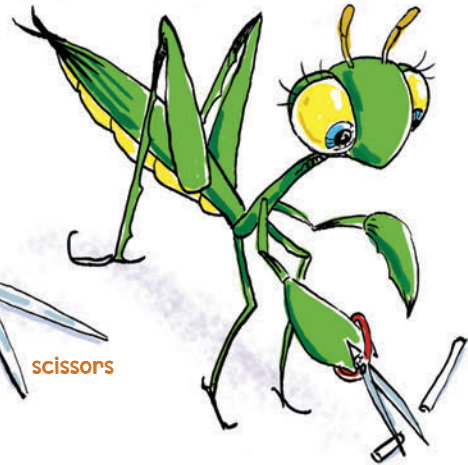
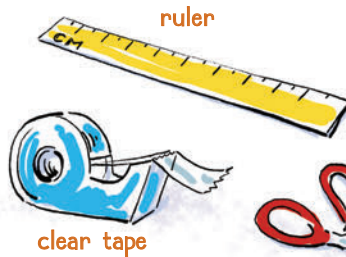
Ready to rock
and roll?

Oh yeah!

Nice Panpipe

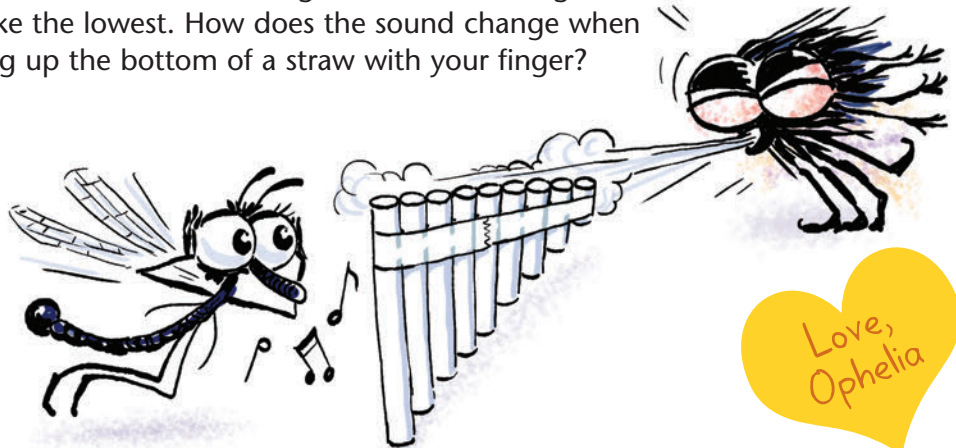
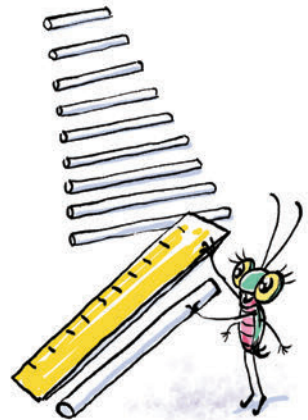
Craft your own musical instrument.
Then make up a cool song.

What You'll Need



What to Do

1. Lay the first straw on the table.
2. Cut off $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch (2 centimeters) from the second straw. Lay it beside the first straw.
3. For the third straw, cut off $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (4 centimeters). Lay it beside the second straw so that the uncut ends of the straws make a straight line.
4. Cut each remaining straw $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch (2 centimeters) shorter than the last. Place each straw next in the line.
5. Wrap tape around the straws, while keeping them in the line from longest to shortest.
6. Blow over the tops of the straws to make music! The shortest straw will make the highest note. The longest will make the lowest. How does the sound change when you plug up the bottom of a straw with your finger?



Love,
Ophelia

Spider's Mailbox

My favorite thing to do with water is swim. It is perfect for a hot summer day. I also can swim underwater. It feels so good when I swim! I would put on my goggles and go under to look at how many fish there are!

Heidi G., age 7
Missouri



Dear Spider,

This is my first time ever sending anything to anyone, but could you take my pet shark, Jr.? He is an imaginary shark. My shark is really nice. He will protect you if there is trouble.

Sharks are really nice, actually. As long as you don't mess with them, they won't mess with you.

Thashan, age 11
Florida
P.S. I love your comics!



Dear Spider,
We had fun at my birthday party at the trampoline park. We played battle beams. My friends and I jumped into a BIG trampoline pit. We did a big jump and a lot of other fun stuff. Ryan and I opened presents together. (Ryan helped.)
Henry, age 6
Connecticut

Dear Spider,
I am learning to skateboard this summer. Is it easier for spiders to skateboard than for humans?
Vigo N., age 7
California



Dear Miro,

Can you adopt Hammy? She is a hamster. What's your favorite color? Mine is blue. Do you like to draw? I like to draw. Also, what is your favorite animal?

Carol X., age 8
California



Dear Vigo,
I have eight legs to keep me balanced on my skateboard. So it might be easier for me than it is for humans. Thanks for the cool drawing of me as a supersonic skateboarder. I can do a stupendous kick turn!

Your pal,
Spider

Chère Carol,

Merci for Hammy. I like rouge—red. I can cook better than I can draw. My favoreet animal is the escargot—snail.

Au revoir,
Miro

Dear Felicity,
Yes, I am a praying mantis. I like friendly dragons, like the beautiful blue dragon you drew. Blue is my favorite color. It'd be fun to go on an adventure with a turtle.

Love,
Ophelia



Dear Spider,

This is my first time writing to you. Can you please take care of Fluffy for me? She is a spark dragon. (She's nice.) She loves target practice. Thank you.

Clemence J., age 7
Vermont



Email your letters to
Spider's Mailbox
spider@cricketmedia.com

Please include your first name, last initial, age, and state or province and country!



Wish to Fly

In our March/April issue, we wished for high-flying poems. Your creativity sure took off. Check out these winged wonders and feathered favorites.

Ava W., age 7
California

I wish I could fly with beautiful wings.
Then I would fly over all the things!
I could do feathers, but I prefer scales.
I would fly over the ocean
and say hello to the whales.

Jamie G., age 10
Iowa

The Blobfish's Wish

I'm a squishy, round blobfish
in the deep blue sea,
wanting to fly like the
seabirds I see,
my gelatinous fins,
propelling me into the sky.
Fish would look up at me,
saying "My, oh my!"
But I'm a blobfish who can't fly,
and the thought makes me cry!



Zita D., age 9
Ohio

I Told Them I Would Fly

Whenever a raven or a finch flutters by,
It comes back to me: my wish to fly.
I'm telling you, I've tried it all,
But instead of flying, I just fall.
I jump off of things a lot, and I always flap my arms.
Everybody says that one day, it could do me harm.
I study every letter V that soars up in the sky,
And I tell myself that someday soon,
when I'm up there, I'll look down and cry:
"Look up if you told me that I couldn't touch the sky,
Because I told you I'd get up here, and guess what?
I can fly!"

Sabina D., age 8
Massachusetts

Penguin's Haiku

Oh, if I could fly!
But I must stay on the ground
and glide, slide away.

Addison G., age 9
Illinois

Oh, how I wish to fly.
It's true, I do!
I'll get on a rocket named *Artemis II*.
I'll soar above the clouds, the stars,
and maybe land on Mars!
I'll get some rocks
and maybe find evidence of life!
You never know what's waiting for you!

Margot C., age 9
North Carolina

Please may I fly
In the sky?
Greater things will happen there,
Ever flying, the wind in my hair.
Of all the powers I wish for this one.
No other power would be this fun.

Kaia D., age 10
North Carolina

I Like to Fly

I feel the wind going through my hair,
As I'm in the sky, flying so high.
Faster and faster, I try.

The sun shines brightly on my face.
It warms my skin, as it goes in.
Faster and faster, I spin.

I open my eyes when I hear a bell.
The school bell rings: *ding, ding!*
Faster and faster, I swing.

"Recess is done! Time to come in."

Westen H., age 10
Pennsylvania

Fly to Canada
Live in the clouds
Years of fun

Ellie P., age 9
Texas

Voglio Volare

(Italian for "I Want to Fly")
I see the sun shining high,
Way above the water and sky,
Where the birds sit down and lie,
Oh, how I wish I could fly.
I would spread my wings out wide,
Looking at things from side to side.
Please will you help me to glide?
Birds and dragons come to see
And watch me in jealousy.
Please, won't you fly with me?

Rosie R., age 10
Virginia

Phoenix

I wish to fly—to touch the sky
with wings of red and yellow.
At night I'd float—as light as a ghost
to touch the moon, each sliver.
The mirror would reflect all the beautiful specks
of color, dotting my feathers.
If I could fly,
you'd pass me by,
I'd be a pretty
Phoenix.

Find *sing*-sational videos
at "Spider's Picks" on
Sensical. Ask a grown-up
to scan the QR code.



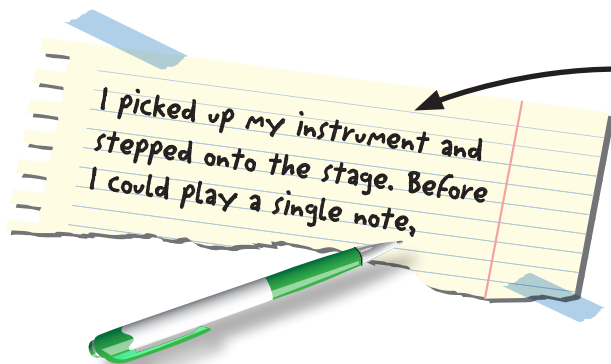
<https://sensicaltv.com/spider>
No purchase required, free to access.

Watch anytime
you have a song
in your heart!



Check out
new videos to
go with each
new issue.





Chloe D., age 11
Ohio

Into the Air

Flying sounds like a wonderful thing
to soar above the world and sing
about the sights you can see from the sky
sailing and sailing away up high.
You'd never come back for chores and things,
just float and fly and sail and sing!
It seems there is nothing better to do.
Can you think of something? Can you? Can you?

Penelope T., age 9
California

Soaring through the clouds
Through the pretty rainbow
My wish has come true

Lucy B., age 8
Minnesota

I rise into the sky on silver streams of air,
where sunlight paints the clouds
with colors bright and fair.

The rooftops fade to specks, but I'm not all alone,
I know my family is supporting me from home.

I fly higher with each push of my feet,
and my heart falls into sync.

But it was all fake, it was just a wishing dream.

Ada O., age 9
Connecticut

I wish I could fly
flitting like a butterfly
soaring up so high

Laura O., age 8
California

I have a wish.
I wish to fly,
soaring high above the sky.
I will wander off to different places
and see all the other faces.
I have a wish.
I wish to fly.
My dream is soaring
in the sky.

Lauren P., age 8
California

Flying Is My Dream

Fly
Higher
Higher still
Over the city
Cars looking like rolling beads
I wish to fly
This is my final plea
Flying is my dream

Olivia W.-H., age 10
New Mexico

I wish to fly,
fly higher than the sky.
I want to be an astronaut,
although it's a tough plan to plot.
I want to see from space.
I've heard it's a wonderful place.
Although it is high,
I sure want to fly!



Finish this story! CONTEST

- Rules:
1. Your story should be 150 words or fewer.
 2. Your entry must be signed by a parent or legal guardian, saying it's your own idea and authorizing its publication in print and/or on our website and social media channels.
 3. Be sure to include your first name, last initial, age, and state or province and country.
 4. Your entry must arrive by August 25, 2026. We will publish our favorites in an upcoming issue.
- Email your entry to spider@cricketmedia.com.

Marcus E., age 8
California

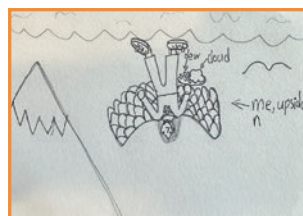
If you want to fly like me
Never use the wings of a bee
What?!

You used the wings of a bee
Goodbye!

I want you to know
That you'll never fly

Ruby E., age 8
Texas

If I could fly,
what would I do?
I'd touch the sky
with my shoe.
I'd eat clouds
and mountain dew.
If you could fly,
what would you do?





Buggy Bulletin

WACKY WONDERING

Would you rather sound like you're singing opera whenever you talk or make a cymbal noise whenever you move?



KIDDING KID

- Q.** Why are thunderstorms so good at bowling?
- A.** They always score lightning strikes.

Henry G., age 9
Arizona

Send your favorite jokes to
spider@cricketmedia.com!

SPOT THE SILLY!

What's wrong in this picture?



Answer: The double bass player is using a flute as a bow.

MOOD MUSIC

Different types of music make us feel different emotions. That's why movie, TV, and video-game makers play fast songs with strong beats during parts with lots of action. During scary parts, they play stringed instruments with odd rhythms. Elevators and doctor's offices play gentle, slow music to help us feel calm.



BIRDIE BOOGIE

Not only are birds great singers, they're also great dancers. Many kinds do complex dances to attract the attention of other birds.

Birds show off:

- fancy footwork
- rhythmic head bobs
- bows
- wing twists
- jumps



ANSWERS

Musical Matchup (page 13)
ROCK BAND

Playing Like Pa (page 20)
A standard piano has 88 keys.

Making Music Around the World
(page 25) DJEMBE

The Math in Music (page 27)

1. 4
2. 4
3. 6
- 4.

Feline Find (page 37)



Name That Tune
(page 42) "ODE TO JOY!"

Spider®

A Web of Creativity and Curiosity

July/August 2026 Volume 33 Number 4

Stacey Lane Smith
Amy Tao
Hayley Kim
Julie Peterson
Anna Lender
Shavan Spears
Christine Voboril
Laura Woodside
Barb Clendenen

Editor
Editor
Assistant Editor
Copy Editor
Art Director
Designer
Permissions Specialist
SVP Education Products
Director of Circulation



SPIDER magazine (ISSN 1070-2911) is published 6 times a year, bimonthly January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December issues, by Cricket Media, Inc., 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102. Periodicals postage paid at McLean, VA, and at additional mailing offices. For address changes, back issues, subscriptions, customer service, or to renew, please visit shop.cricketmedia.com, email cricketmedia@cdsfulfillment.com, write to SPIDER, P.O. Box 5118, Boone, IA 50950-0118, or call 1-800-821-0115. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to SPIDER, P.O. Box 5118, Boone, IA 50950-0118.

July/August 2026, Volume 33, Number 4 © 2026, Cricket Media. All rights reserved, including right of reproduction in whole or in part, in any form. Send correspondence to spider@cricketmedia.com. For submission information and guidelines, see cricketmedia.com. We are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or other material. All letters and contest entries accompanied by parent or guardian signatures are assumed to be for publication and become the property of Cricket Media. For information regarding our privacy policy and compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, please visit our website at cricketmedia.com or write to us at CMG COPPA, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102.

Grateful acknowledgment is given to the following publishers and copyright owners for permission to reprint selections from their publications. All possible care has been taken to trace ownership and secure permission for each selection: Cover art © 2016 by Lorena Alvarez; "Musical Tongue Twisters" art © 2016 by David Habben; "Bill—The Perfectly Rotten Monster" text © 2000 by Judy Hindley, art © 2000 by Tony DiTerlizzi; "Musical Matchup" art © 2020 by Chris Robertson; "Playing Like Pa" art © 2007 by Jada Rowland; "Piano Playing" text © 2020 by Raven Howell, art © 2020 by Agnès Ernout; "Ben Franklin's Favorite Invention" art © 2017 by Adam Larkum; "Name That Tune" text and art © 2003 by Leah Palmer Preiss.

Photo acknowledgments: IFC (star) Ashes Studio/Shutterstock.com; 1 (light bulb) Design Ful/Shutterstock.com; 1 (scissors) Vectorize21/Shutterstock.com; 4–5 (spots) Louisa Jacobson/Shutterstock.com; 6–7 (BG) Apostrophe/Shutterstock.com; 8–12 (BG) idwan kurnia/Shutterstock.com; 8–11 (BG doodles) designbymizanur/Shutterstock.com; 8 (C) Orange County Library System; 9 (T), 9 (B) Fyutch; 10–11 (B) The Recording Academy; 10 (TL), 11 (TR), 12 (TR) Sam Popp; 12 (TL) Sudowoodo/Shutterstock.com; 12 (CL), (CR) Re Gara/Shutterstock.com; 12 (BL) kichikimi/Shutterstock.com; 12 (stars) SK 2008/Shutterstock.com; 13 (music notes) PawLoveArt/Shutterstock.com; 13 (BG) aga7a/Shutterstock.com; 13 (brushstrokes) Anastasia Hevko/Shutterstock.com; 14–15 (spots on BG) SkillUp/Shutterstock.com; 14 (B) Alastair Wallace/Shutterstock.com; 15 (T) unterwegs/Shutterstock.com; 15 (B) Joe Ravi/Shutterstock.com; 16–20 (spots) Looli/Shutterstock.com; 23 (BG)

Pixera/Shutterstock.com; 24 (globe) New Vectors/Shutterstock.com; 24 (TR) Hlib Shabashnyi/Shutterstock.com; 24 (CL) Kateryna Upit/Shutterstock.com; 24 (BL) New Africa/Shutterstock.com; 24 (BR) Hung Chung Chih/Shutterstock.com; 25 (TL) kuremo/Shutterstock.com; 25 (TR) Tiwuk Suwantini/Shutterstock.com; 25 (CL) Yusuf Tatliturk/Shutterstock.com; 25 (BL) DenisProduction.com/Shutterstock.com; 25 (BR) Dualorua/Shutterstock.com; 26–27 (violet BG) Luria/Shutterstock.com; 26–27 (BG notes) designbymizanur/Shutterstock.com; 32–33 (BG) Red Frog/Shutterstock.com; 32–33 (text boxes) createvil/Shutterstock.com; 32–33 (doodle art) kichikimi/Shutterstock.com; 32 (CR) Proonty/Shutterstock.com; 32 (apricots) Nataliya Arzamasova/Shutterstock.com; 32 (chocolate) Hong Vo/Shutterstock.com; 32 (coconut) New Africa/Shutterstock.com; 32 (nuts) Nata-Lia/Shutterstock.com; 32 (seeds) Diana Talun/Shutterstock.com; 32 (cereal) P Maxwell Photography/Shutterstock.com; 33 (kid) Ljupco Smokovski/Shutterstock.com; 33 (zip bag) Anna Hoychuk/Shutterstock.com; 34 (CL) Public Domain; 34 (BL) Jorge Casais/Shutterstock.com; 35 (TR) Public Domain; 36 (BG spots) Bilbo Baggins/Shutterstock.com; 37 (BG) Lyudmyla Kharlamova/Shutterstock.com; 38–41 (BG) Tonkitti/Shutterstock.com; 38 (TL) MOANA 2 – © 2024 Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved; 38–39 (B) courtesy of Julie Foai, Te Vaka Management, photographer Darlington Peters; 39 (BR map) Rainer Lesniewski/Shutterstock.com; 39 (BR spots) Bluehousestudio/Shutterstock.com; 40–41 (T), 40 (CL) courtesy of Julie Foai, Te Vaka Management, photographer Julie Foai; 40–41 (B) courtesy of Julie Foai, Te Vaka Management, photographer Darlington Peters; 41 (CR) Photo courtesy of Disney, © 2026 Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved; 41 (CB chants) ContributorFaruk/Shutterstock.com; 41 (CB clapping) N J Vectors/Shutterstock.com; 41 (CB log drum) Md. Mofazzul Hossen/Shutterstock.com; 41 (CB sharkskin drum) Alexandr III/Shutterstock.com; 41 (CB conch shell) Pixel_studio/Shutterstock.com; 41 (CB gourd) forida54/Shutterstock.com; 42 (BG) ShvedKris/Shutterstock.com; 42 (tile banner) nudss/Shutterstock.com; 47 (TL paper) craftlove/Shutterstock.com; 47 (TL pen) cookie85/Shutterstock.com; 48 (BG) YadvigaGr/Shutterstock.com; 48 (corkboard) Pixel Creative/Shutterstock.com; 48 (pushpins) Hlch/Shutterstock.com; 48 (papers) somnial/Shutterstock.com; 48 (CT kid) Siwasan Chiewpimolporn/Shutterstock.com; 48 (cranes) Ondrej Prosky/Shutterstock.com; 48 (manakin) ibrahim kavus/Shutterstock.com; 48 (hoopoe) Drakuliren/Shutterstock.com; 48 (BL) toyotoyo/Shutterstock.com; 48 (BR) Lyudmyla Kharlamova/Shutterstock.com; 50 (Billboard logo) © Billboard Media, LLC. Used with permission; 50 (BG) Jemastock/Shutterstock.com; 51 (cowgirl) HG Vector/Shutterstock.com; 51 (dragon) Mehrab Uddin/Shutterstock.com; 51 (turtle) Braggpictures/Shutterstock.com; 51 (cow) Cory Thoman/Shutterstock.com; 51 (octopus) YuliDor/Shutterstock.com; 51 (BL) Iconic Bestiary/Shutterstock.com; 51 (light bulb) Hunter Leder/Shutterstock.com; 51 (TR guitar, hat, jazz notes) hatsak/Shutterstock.com; 51 (sax) Bibdash/Shutterstock.com; 51 (BR DJ color bursts) Molesto Studio/Shutterstock.com; 52 (Billboard logo) © Billboard Media, LLC. Used with permission; 52 (BG), 53 (banner) Jemastock/Shutterstock.com; 53 (RT) Moonbug Entertainment; 53 (*Encanto*) ENCANTO - © 2021 Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved; 53 (Pinkfong) © The Pinkfong Company, Pinkfong™ and Baby Shark™ registered or pending rights worldwide; 53 (*Moana*) MOANA 2 - © 2024 Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved; 53 (Raffi) Troubadour Music Inc.

1st Printing Quad Sussex, Wisconsin June 2026

Printed in the United States of America.

From time to time, SPIDER mails to its subscribers advertisements for other SPIDER products or makes its subscriber list available to other reputable companies for their offering of products and services. If you prefer not to receive such mail, write to us at SPIDER, P.O. Box 5118, Boone, IA 50950-0118.

To subscribe, call Customer Service at 1-800-821-0115 or visit store.cricketmedia.com.

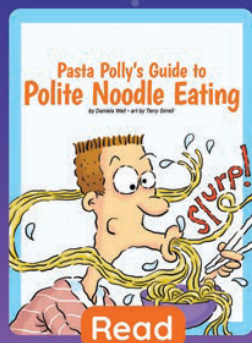
Want more?
Get Cricket.



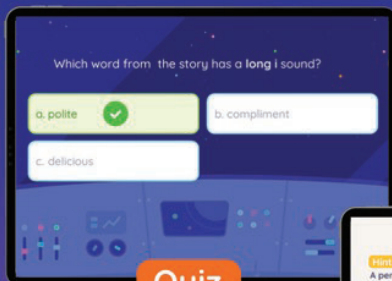
For subscriber updates, please visit cricketmedia.com/subscriber-updates.

Turn Reading into an Adventure!

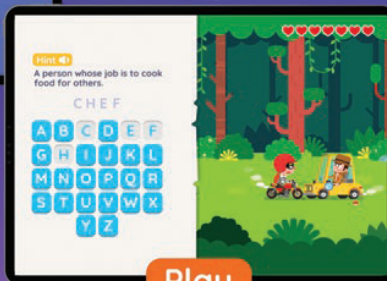
New Cricket books added all the time.



Read



Quiz



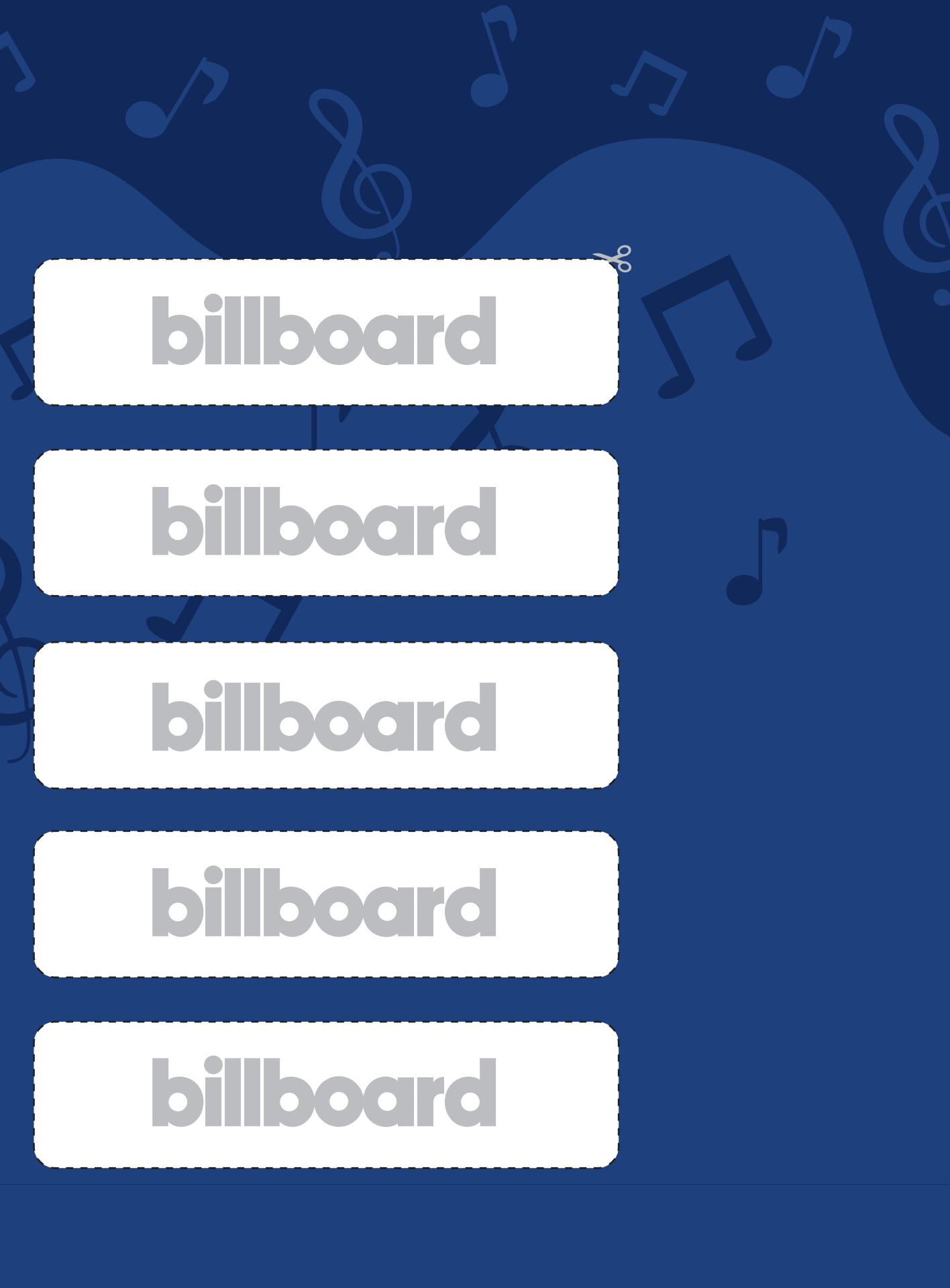
Play



Build a World!



AD



billboard

billboard

billboard

billboard

billboard

Billboard's Best

by Piper Cadence

THE FUN ZONE

Do you keep hearing the same song everywhere you go? Is it the same song you heard everywhere three years ago? Nope. **Hits change fast.**

SORTING SONGS

Billboard keeps track of music trends. Each week, they rank songs, albums, and artists. Billboard makes different charts for different types of music. The Kid Albums chart ranks the week's top collections of songs for children.

How does Billboard figure out what to put on their charts?

They collect information on

- sales
- streams
- plays on the radio

Then they do the math.

Counting streams?
I hope they don't
get too wet.



No, silly. Here, streams
means playing music
on the Internet.



MAKING THE CHART

A new song or album by a famous musician often starts high on the charts. But some take years to reach the charts. Lots of great music never makes the charts.

CHART TOPPER

Just because a song is at the top of a Billboard chart doesn't mean everyone loves it. It just means it got the best score.

TASTE IN TUNES

Ask five people what their favorite song is. You'll probably get five different answers. That's because each person has their own taste in music. Now that's something to sing about!

Check out these high-ranking titles from Billboard's Kid Albums!



ENCANTO - © 2021 Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



© The Pinkfong Company, registered on pending rights worldwide.



MOANA 2 - © 2024 Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



CAUTION! You are now entering the FUN ZONE.

billboard

CHART DATED **JULY 1, 2026**

KID ALBUMS

1



2



3



4



5



Make your own Billboard chart!

What You'll Need

colored pencils
scissors
a friend

What to Do

1. Color and cut out the 5 album strips along the dotted lines.
2. Place them on the chart in order of your favorites.
3. Give the album strips to a friend. Ask your friend to place them on the chart in order of their favorites.



How did the order change from when you made the chart?



Billboard collects information on tastes in music. Now you can too!



CODY COWPOKE'S
COUNTRY CLASSICS



RAD ROCK 'N' ROLL HITS



JOLLY
JAZZ JAMS



Lovely Lullabies and
Neat Nursery Rhymes



DJ AWESOME'S
DANCE PARTY MIX



July/August 2026

\$7.95

Volume 33 Number 4 cricketmedia.com

Marvin and Friends



Step right up!
Hear Marvin's amazing
swamp orchestra.

TONIGHT!
ONLY ONE
PERFORMANCE!



I hope this
is good!

But of course, dear
Plush! I've trained
them myself!



Ready? All
together now!

SKREEE!
CROAK!

CHEEP!
CHEEP!

What a
racket!

They're not
in tune!

I can't
take it
anymore!



Hey, where are you going?
They haven't done their
second song!



So, how much
did we make?

A ton! Marvin,
you're a musical genius!

GET YOUR ROTTEN
VEGETABLES!
JUST 50 CENTS

SORRY,
SOLD
OUT!