



Making a sound

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The sound of the instrument comes from the sound bars. When the beater hits the sound bar it vibrates and makes a musical note.

- 1 Take all the sound bars off your instrument except two. Leave on the ones nearest to each end. One is much longer than the other.

What do you notice about the sound that the longer one makes, and the sound that the shorter one makes?

- 2 Pick up one of the sound bars that you took off. Hold it in one hand and hit it with a beater.

What happens?

- 3 How could you make the bar sound properly without putting it back on the instrument? Try your idea.

Did it do what you expected it to do?

- 4 Does the sound bar make the same sound as when it is on the instrument? Try it.

Listen carefully.

- 5 Look at one sound bar.

Does it have any holes in it? What are they for? Is it flat on both sides? Why do you think this is?



The sound box



Take all the sound bars off your instrument. Look inside the body of the instrument. You are looking at the sound box part of the instrument.

- Does it look like one wooden box, or is the box divided into more than one compartment?

- How many compartments are there? If there is more than one, are they the same size?

- Is the biggest compartment under the low notes of the instrument or under the high notes?

- What do you think these compartments are for?



Percussion materials



1 What material is the body of the instrument made of? _____

How do you know? _____

Is this a good choice of material? If so, why? _____

2 What are the sound bars made of? _____

How do you know? _____

Is this a good choice of material? If so, why? _____

3 What are the pegs holding the bars made of? _____

How do you know? _____

Is this a good choice of material? If so, why? _____

4 What are the screws holding the instrument together made of? _____

How do you know? _____

Is this a good choice of material? If so, why? _____

6 Are there any other materials? _____

