

Royal College of Music Museum

Sound Collectors - Strings Activity Pack

- To learn about percussion instruments and how they make sound
- To discover a unique object from the Royal College of Music
- To complete a Sound Collector Challenge

String Family

Harp



Violin



Viola



Cello



Double bass



Guitar



Here are just a few instruments from the string family.

MISSION 1: Collect



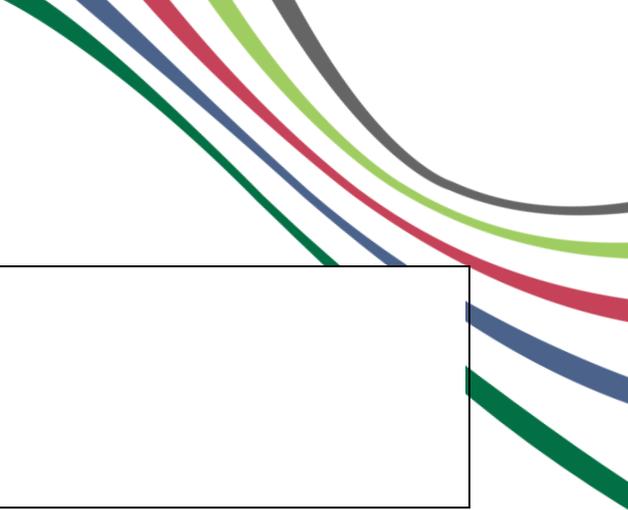
WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgaQFLUdULO>



Time to collect! Watch the video above and make notes as a group.

What is this instrument?

How does it make sound?



How do you think musicians change the pitch (how high or how low a note is)?

How do you think musicians change the volume (how loud or how soft a note it)?



MISSION 2: Discover



The Royal College of Music Museum is home to a collection of very special objects. Time to discover something you've never seen before!



A pocket violin

This might look like a normal violin, but it is really VERY tiny!

It is called a 'pochette' (the French word for 'pocket') because it was designed to fit into a large coat pocket. It even comes with its very own tiny bow!

, causing it to rip.

Dancing Masters

Pocket violins were often used by dancing masters in the 1600s. They would visit the houses of wealthy lords and ladies to teach them the latest dance steps. Their pochette violins were beautifully made, with expensive materials like **ebony** and **ivory**. Some of them even had animal heads carved into the top!



One special pochette in the Royal College of Music has a secret.

Pull a cord, and a fan pops out of a hidden compartment in case the performer gets too hot!



Time to collect! Make notes as a group.

What was the tiny violin in the Royal College of Music Museum called?

Who would have played it?

The pochette was a very small instrument. Do you think it makes a high or a low sound?

MISSION 3: Challenge

For this mission you will need to collect the following materials:

- Matchbox
- 2 lollipop sticks
- 2 thick, long elastic bands



Using the materials, can you make a string instrument that can play 2 notes?

How to make it

1. Slide open the drawer of the matchbox and put a lollipop stick inside to hold it open (you may need to cut the stick shorter).
2. Loop the two elastic bands over the matchbox (long end to long end) until they are stretched tight.
3. Cut the other lollipop stick to about 4cm and tuck upright under the elastic bands. This will make them tighter.

