

## The Pitch and Volume of Sound

Cross-Curricular Focus: Physical Science



Sound can be measured. Some sounds are low. Some sounds are high. **Pitch** is how low or high a sound is. An object or instrument that vibrates very slowly makes a sound with a low pitch. One that vibrates very quickly makes a sound with a high pitch.

Have you ever noticed the different instruments that play in an orchestra? Sound travels in waves. The vibrations from the instruments reach your ear. You hear them as sound. The bigger an instrument is, the lower the sound that it makes. A tiny flute, called a piccolo, has a very high pitch. A full-size flute has a much lower pitch. A violin's pitch is higher than a viola or bass. A trumpet's pitch is higher than a tuba's.

**Volume** is different than pitch. You can use more or less volume to make a sound. You can make music or your voice louder or softer. Volume and pitch work together to make sounds. Next time you hear an instrument play, listen to the radio or even just listen to someone's voice as they talk or sing, see if you can ear the difference between the volume and the pitch.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What is the measurement of low or high sound called?

\_\_\_\_\_

2) What is the measurement of loud or soft sound called?

\_\_\_\_\_

3) How does sound travel?

\_\_\_\_\_

4) What pitch would the sound from a large instrument have?

\_\_\_\_\_

5) What pitch would the sound from a small instrument have?

\_\_\_\_\_

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1) What is the measurement of low or high sound called?

pitch

2) What is the measurement of loud or soft sound called?

volume

3) How does sound travel? in waves

4) What pitch would the sound from a large instrument have?

low pitch

5) What pitch would the sound from a small instrument have?

high pitch