

## **Student Introduction**

The recorder is a Woodwind instrument that has been around for many years. They were played a lot in the 1500's during the Medieval times and were often played to sound like bird songs. They were originally made of wood but are often now made of plastic. The introduction of the flute caused a decline in the use of the recorder. The recorder made a comeback in the early 1900's when musicians wanted to play "old music" with the "old instrument" for which it was written. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century recorders were often made out of plastic which makes them more affordable, but the sound quality changes according to manufacturing companies designs.

There are different sizes of recorders: Sopranino (smallest), Soprano (this is your recorder), Alto, Tenor and Bass. The smaller instruments play the higher pitches and the larger instruments play the lower pitches.

The recorder may be made in one solid piece or 2-3 pieces, which come apart for easy cleaning and care of the instrument. Most recorder kits come with a cleaning stick (rod) which has a hole or eyelet to pull a small piece of fabric through, similar to threading a needle with yarn or thread. This cleaning stick is pulled through the recorder so that any moisture that accumulates while playing can be dried out.

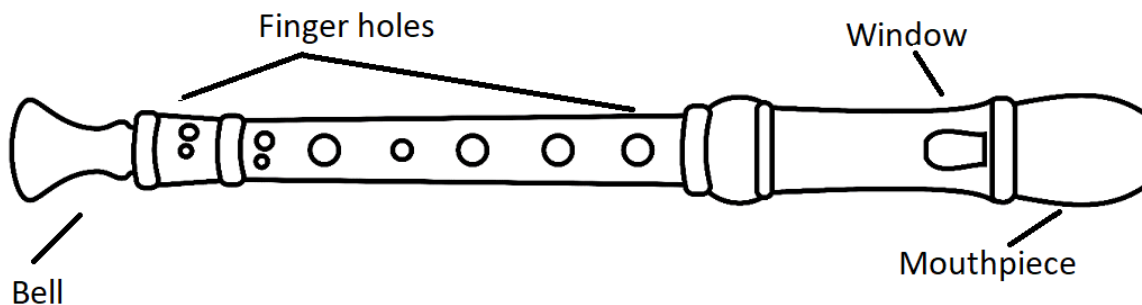
## **Posture**

While playing the recorder the musician should sit towards the front edge of a chair or stand up with feet slightly apart. This allows the lungs to completely fill with air and gives the player the best opportunity to control the instrument with the air flow.

The Left Hand is always placed at the top of the recorder. It does not matter if you are left or right-handed. Both hands will be used as your level of playing increases.

Your teacher will show you the correct way to hold the recorder and where to place your recorder in your mouth. Your teeth should never touch the mouthpiece.

## **Parts of the Recorder**



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

### WHITE STRIPE QUIZ

Use this list of words to fill in the blanks below:

Six

Bell

Larger

Mouthpiece

Teeth

Sopranino

Double

Wood

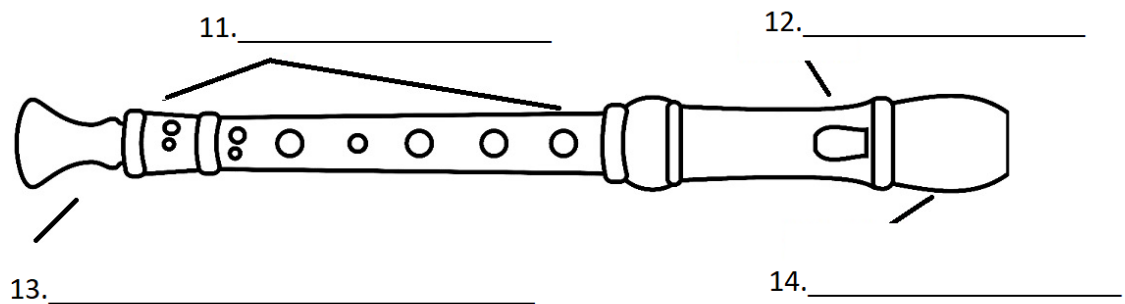
Higher

Left

1. Recorders were originally made of \_\_\_\_\_ but are now commonly made of plastic.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ recorder is the smallest sized recorder.
3. The smaller instruments play the \_\_\_\_\_ pitches.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ instruments play the lower pitches.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ hand is always placed at the top of the recorder.
6. Your \_\_\_\_\_ should never touch the mouthpiece.
7. There are \_\_\_\_\_ single finger holes on the recorder.
8. There are 2 sets of \_\_\_\_\_ finger holes on the recorder.
9. The bottom of the recorder is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The top part of the recorder is the \_\_\_\_\_.

Label the diagram to show these parts: Bell, Window, Mouth piece and Finger holes.

#### Parts of the Recorder



True or False:

15. The recorder is in the Percussion family of instruments.
16. It doesn't matter which hand is placed at the top of the recorder.
17. It only takes a small amount of air to make a sound on the recorder.
18. Recorders may be played alone or in groups.
19. The Soprano recorder is the size most students begin playing first.
20. Every time you play your recorder you should clean it to dry any moisture from inside.