

# Teaching Notes: *The ABC of Musical Instruments*

Illustrated by Ailie Busby  
Published by Catch a Star  
ISBN: 978-1-912076-45-1



## SYNOPSIS

Join these loveable animals as they play musical instruments in the perfect first alphabet book

## JANE AUSTEN AND THE HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST

Jane Austen, the world famous author, spent most of her life in Hampshire. Its houses, countryside and people inspired her writing. The book design draws on the repeating pattern of oak leaves from a Pelisse Coat in the care of The Hampshire Cultural Trust which is thought to have belonged to Jane Austen.

## ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND

Ailie studied Illustration Design at East Anglia University, Cambridge, travelled around the world for a year, then moved to London and became a freelance children's book illustrator. She relocated to Newcastle where she has lived for the past 15 years. She takes inspiration from all things vintage including children's books and pattern design, Ailie uses traditional media to create charming, engaging characters.

## HOW THE BOOK ENHANCES LEARNING

The first stages of reading and learning are so important for a child. This book is a fun and innovative way of learning the alphabet whilst also identifying musical instruments. It expands children's minds through music, creativity and imagination.

[www.catchstarbooks.co.uk](http://www.catchstarbooks.co.uk)  
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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introduce *The ABC of Musical Instruments* to the children.

Get the children to look closely at the front cover: What can they see?

Can they identify any of the colours?

What animals are on the cover?

Ask the children if any of them can name a musical instrument?

*After reading the book:*

What was their favourite letter and instrument in the book?

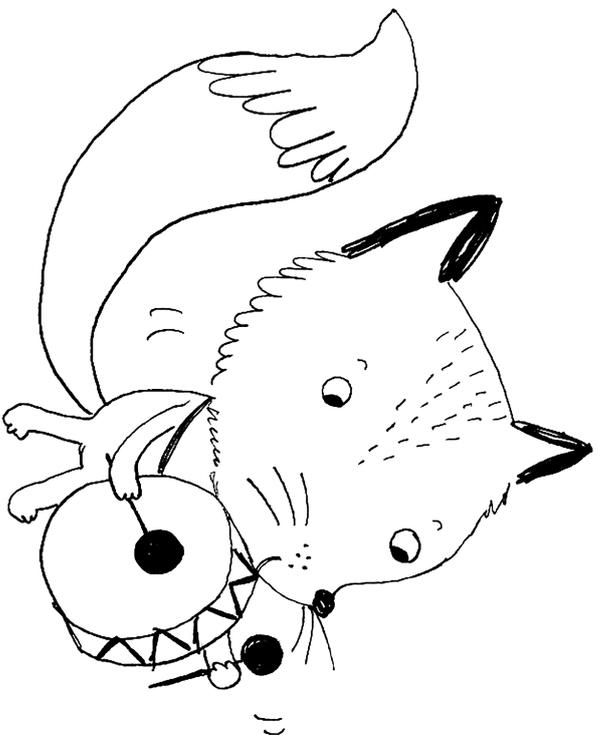
Does anyone play an instrument? If they do - what instrument do they play? If they don't - what instrument would they like to play?

## Activity: Rhythms and Syllables

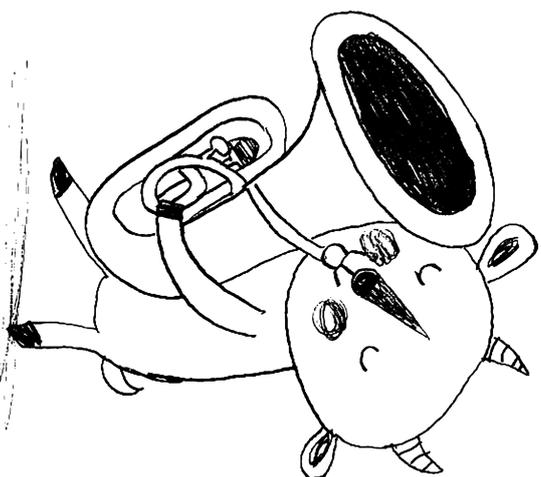
- 1) Get the children to sit in a circle.
- 2) Begin the exercise by clapping a rhythm and getting the children to repeat the rhythm that you have clapped (call and response). Continue this 5-8 times.
- 3) Ask each child: "What is the first letter of their name?"
- 4) Children must state the first letter of their name. Find out how many syllables are in the child's name.
- 5) Clap the syllables of each name. Get the class to clap the syllables of each name in the same call and response manner as at the beginning of the exercise. Does anyone have one syllable in their name?

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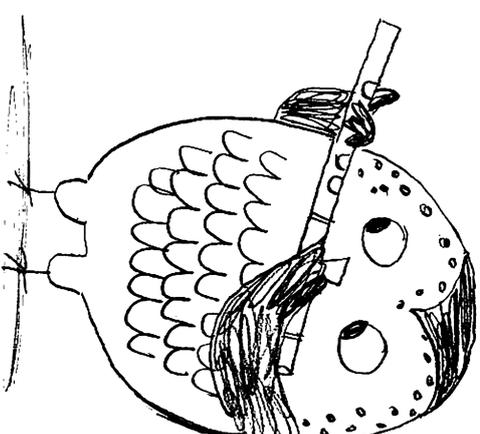




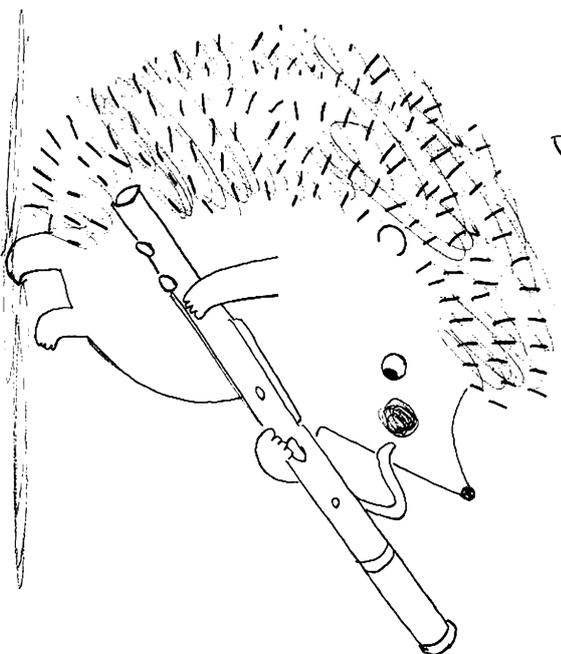
DRUM



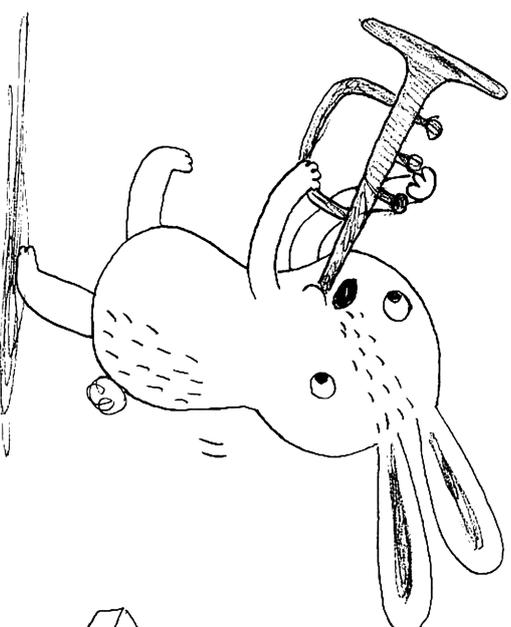
Euphonium



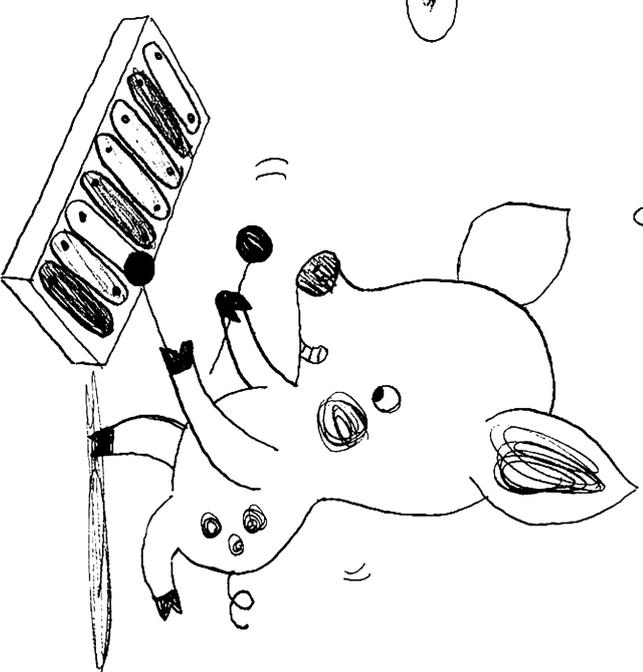
Flute



BASSOON



Trumpet

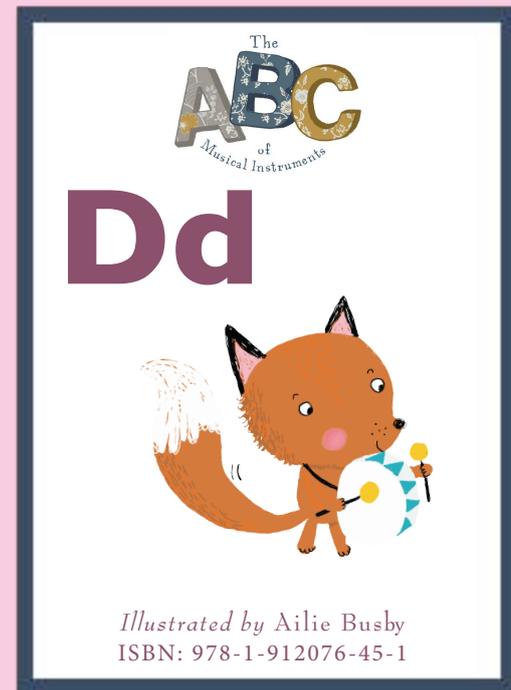
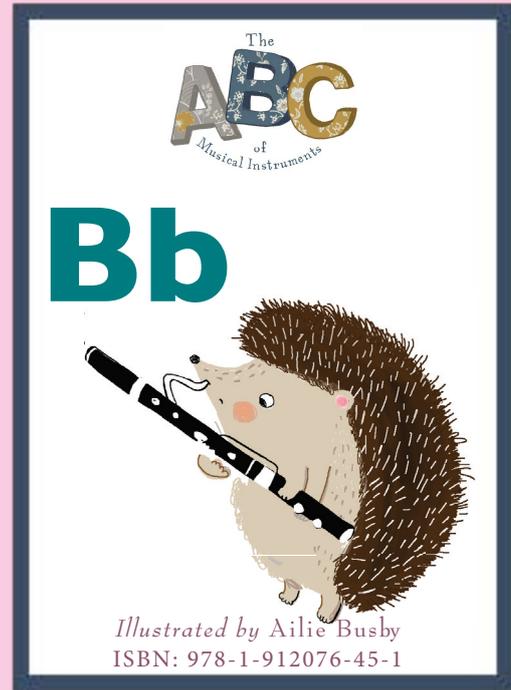
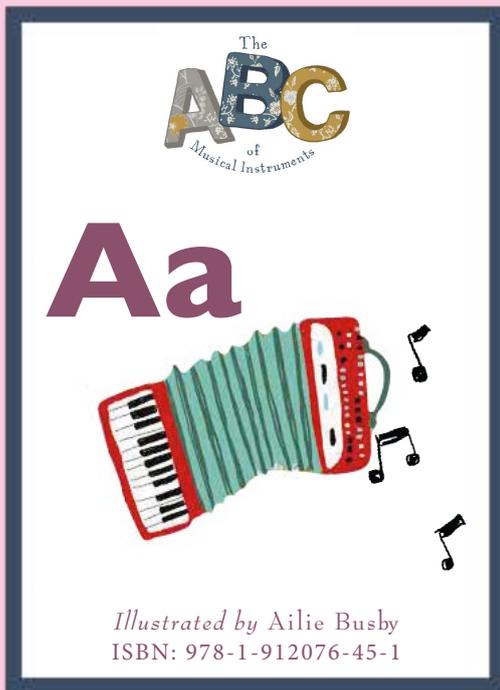
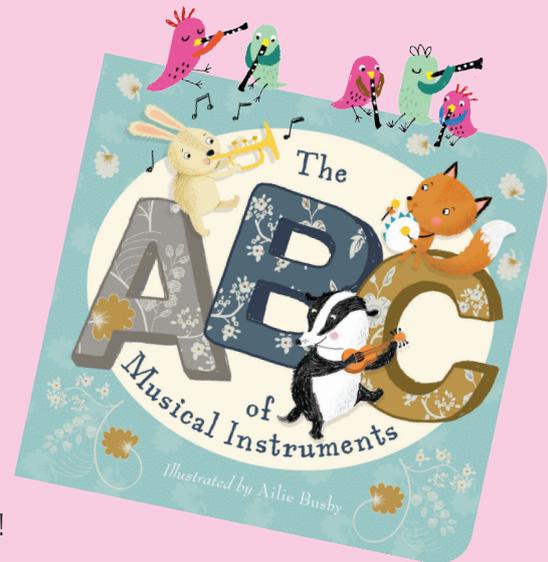


Xylophone

Colour in the animals as they play their instruments!

## Activity: Match Up!

1. Print out 2x copies of each sheet of paper with the playing cards.
2. Cut out each of the playing cards and place them in a deck.
3. Sit the children in a circle.
4. Place each of the cards face down on the floor in the middle of the circle.
5. Turn the cards over one by one, pausing in between each turn.
6. When the children see two pairs of cards that are the same they must shout "Match Up!". The child who shouts "Match Up!" first gets to keep the pair of cards.
7. The child with the most amount of pairs at the end of the game wins!



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# Ee



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# Gg

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**Kk**

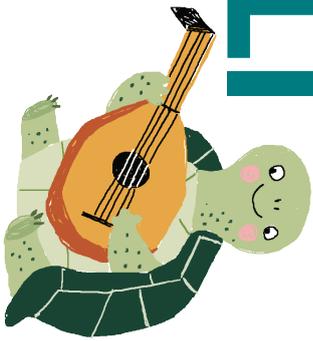
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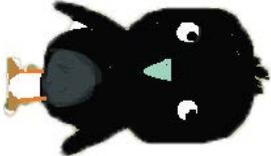
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