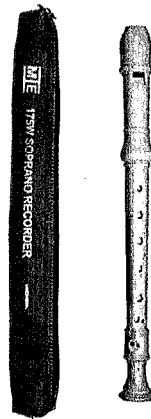


IN the BAG RECORDER BOOK



Name _____ Class 4 _____

THE HISTORY OF THE RECORDER

The Recorder is a very old woodwind instrument that is from the ancient family called the internal duct flutes. It has been around for over five hundred years in various forms. Despite its long history, it is often looked upon as a toy or a child's instrument. To the contrary, the recorder is a venerable instrument and should be taken seriously.

Recorders of the past were mainly constructed from wood, yet many today are made of plastic. In fact, manufacturers produce approximately 3.5 million plastic recorders per year, according to Nicholas Lander's Recorder Home Page. Its mouthpiece is a plug that creates a shaped windway. However, what distinguishes the recorder from other internal duct flutes are its seven finger holes and single thumb hole, which is known as an octave vent.

Although it has been traced back through artist renderings to as early as the 1300s, the recorder reached a height in popularity during the 16th through 18th centuries. Originally, recorders (and music in general) were only really available to royal courts. This changed drastically around the 1500s, when sheet music became available to wealthier commoners, and instrument makers began to produce recorders for the public. Many Renaissance composers, such as John Dowland and Ludwig Senfl, wrote music for the recorder. This music was played both in common homes and royal castles. Playing the recorder was a pastime for kings and queens. The instrument was also used in Shakespeare plays and played by famous composers Telemann, Bach and Handel. Lander claims the earliest documented presence of the recorder in North America was in 1633.

By the 1700s, many composers and instrumentalists began to favor the flute over the recorder, due to the limited range of musical expression possible with the recorder. During this time the orchestra grew larger and the recorder was not able to play loud enough to be heard. After this the recorders popularity declined.

By the 1900s, the recorder began to regain some popularity among classical composers and pop and rock musicians. Adventurous musicians achieved virtuosic levels of play with the recorder. Not surprisingly, it has found its way into popular music, being used by such artists as diverse as The Beatles ("The Fool

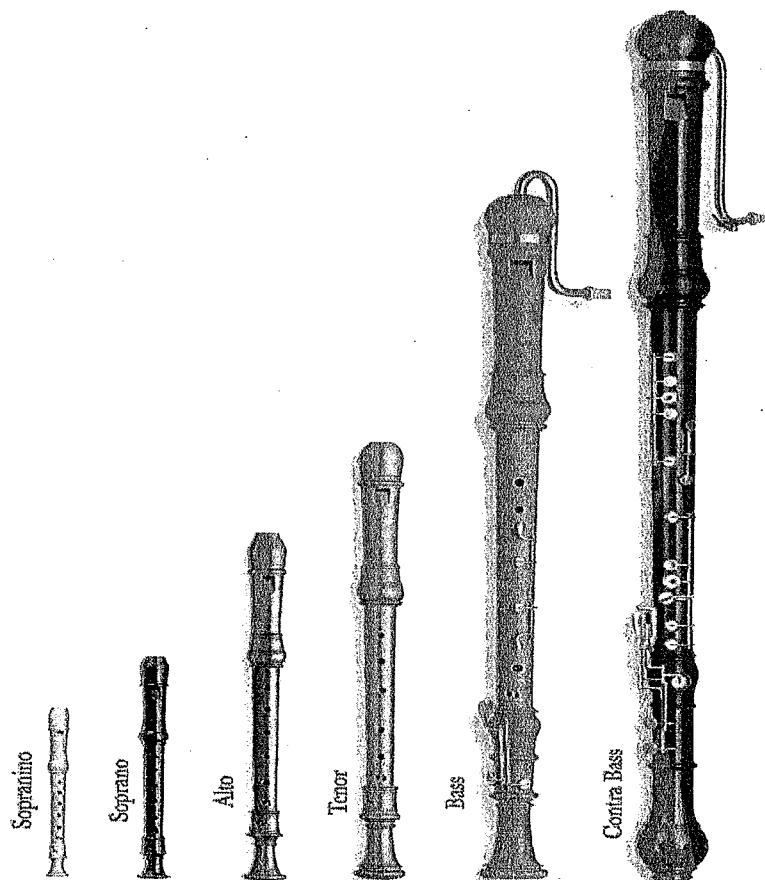
On The Hill"), The Rolling Stones ("Ruby Tuesday") and The Clark-Duke Project ("Sweet Baby"). New techniques were developed to allow additional sonic possibilities from the recorder, making the instrument more popular among experimental composers. Today they are found in music classrooms around the world.

There are currently hundreds of recorder societies in the United States alone, according to Recorder Homepage. Founded in 1939, the American Recorder Society has chapters nationwide as well as in Canada and 30 other countries throughout the world. At these chapters, recorder musicians can meet, swap sheet music and polish their recorder skills. Part of the American Recorder Society's mission is to drive an increase in career opportunities for recorder musicians and teachers.

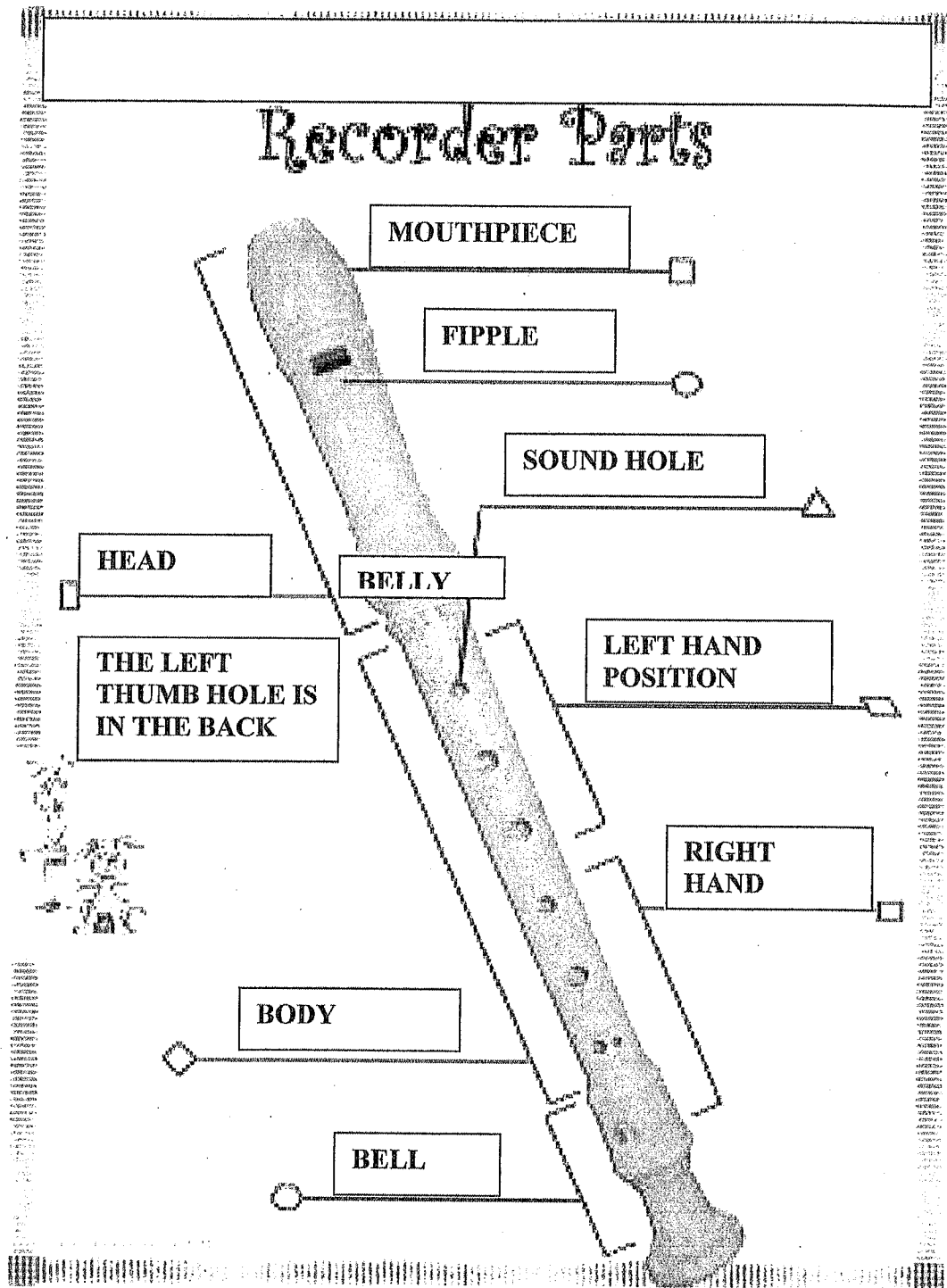
THE RECORDER

FAMILY

(Consort)

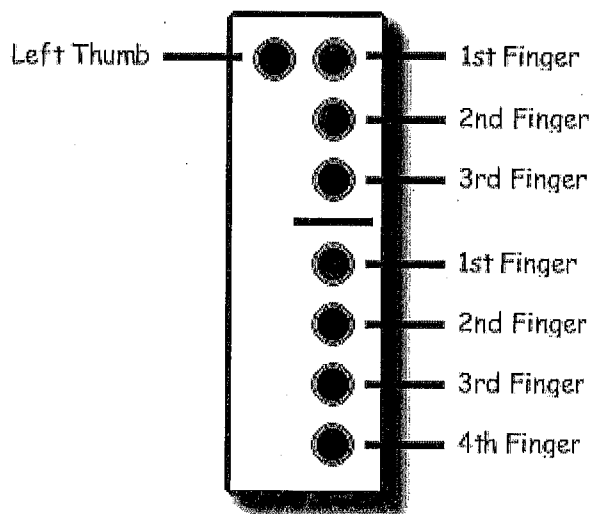
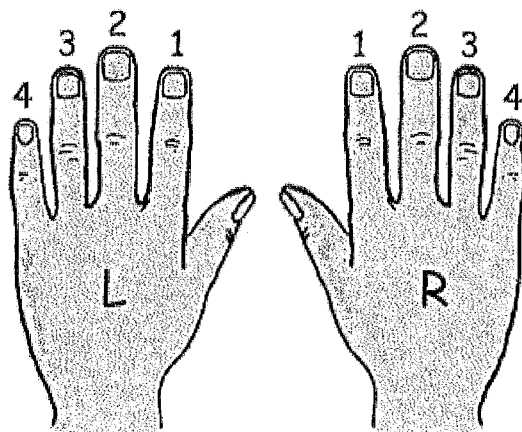
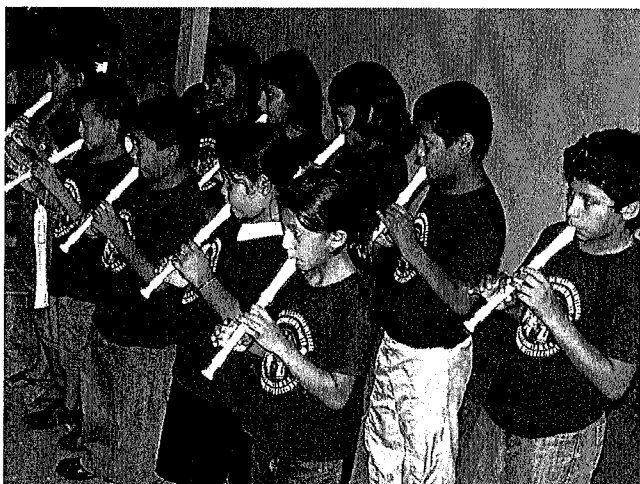


PARTS OF THE RECORDER



HOW TO HOLD THE RECORDER

- All recorders have a thumbhole in the back and seven holes down the front. Your recorder has double holes on the bottom two holes.
- The **LEFT HAND** is placed at the top of the recorder, which is just below the “belly”. The left hand covers the thumb in the back of the recorder and the first 3 holes. The pinkie of the left hand is never used and should be held away from the recorder.
- The **RIGHT HAND** is placed at the bottom of the recorder. The right thumb is used to balance the recorder and is placed between the 4th and 5th holes on the back. The right hand fingers cover the four holes near the bottom of the recorder.
- Cover the holes completely with the flat, fleshy pad of your fingers, NOT the fingertips.
- Fingers should be slightly curved.
- Fingers that are not being used to cover the holds should be held a little distance above their holes so they are ready to quickly play the next note.
- Hold your recorder at a 45-degree angle. Your elbows should be slightly away from your body. Make sure you sit up tall!



HOW TO PLAY THE RECORDER

How to Place the Recorder In Your Mouth

- Place the mouthpiece of the recorder in your mouth after saying “mmm” making your lips cover your teeth. NEVER touch your teeth on the recorder.
- Make sure not to put too much of the mouthpiece in your mouth. Only the tip of the mouthpiece should be in your mouth.
- Make sure that your lips stay around the mouthpiece. Don’t open and close your mouth on each note. This will avoid air leaks.


How much air?

- Blow softly but with a steady stream of air. Little air is required.
- Try placing a piece of paper about 12 inches in front of your face. Blow on the paper and make it barely move. That is how much air you need for the recorder.

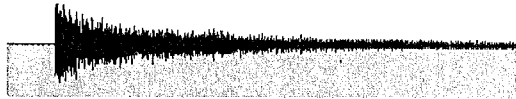
REMEMBER!!! There are only 2 mistakes you can make~

- 1) Not covering the holes completely
- 2) Blowing too hard

What to do with your tongue~

To make a good clean sound on your recorder, you need to practice tonguing. At the beginning of each note, make the sound “doo” with your tongue so that the note sounds nice and neat. The sound should start and finish perfectly evenly, like 

You do not want your sound to look like this:



What is REST POSITION?

Place the mouthpiece on your chin. You are ALMOST in playing position. This is how you practice PRACTICE STEP NUMBER 2.



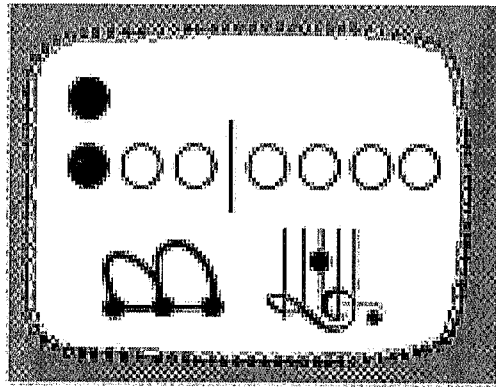
HOW TO PRACTICE THE RECORDER

RECORDER PRACTICE STEPS~Don’t make noise, Make MUSIC!

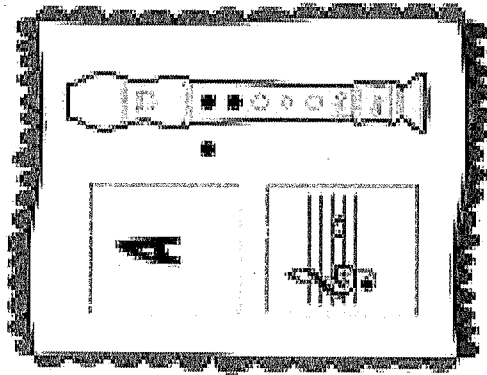
JUST DO IT!

- 1. Point to the music and say the names of the notes in the correct rhythm.
- 2. Say the note names and move the fingers to match the note fingering in rest position (SEE ABOVE).
- 3. Play the song!!!
- Hint: Make sure you are completely comfortable with each step before you go to the next step.

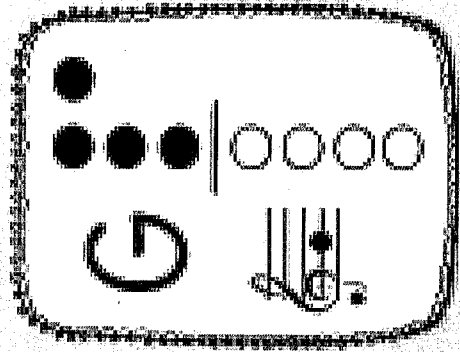
Mi=B



Re=A



Do=G



HOT CROSS BUNS-Medieval Vendor Song

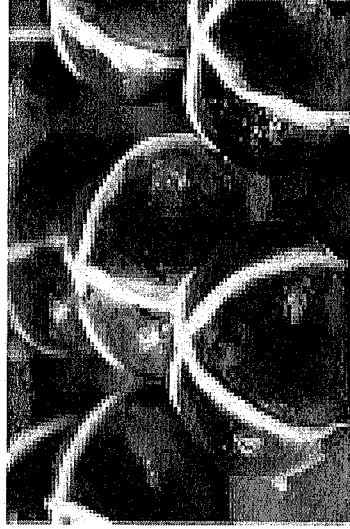
Hot Cross Buns

Hot Cross Buns

One a penny,

Two a penny,

Hot Cross Buns



Name _____ Class 4 _____
DIRECTIONS: Fill in the missing notes. Use your 3 practice steps to practice the song.



$\frac{4}{4}$ Hot cross buns, Hot cross buns, 1 a pen-ny, 2 a pen-ny, hot cross buns.
B A G B G B A G

HOT CROSS BUNS

Hot cross buns, Hot cross buns, 1 a pen-ny, 2 a pen-ny, hot cross buns.
B A G B G B A G

CREATE YOUR OWN SWEET TREAT

DIRECTIONS: Write your own favorite Sweet Treat song. Use the Hot Cross Buns melody notes to play YOUR words.

A=Name your favorite sweet treat: _____
B=Why is it delicious?: _____

**PRACTICE USING OUR SONG FORM:
AABA**

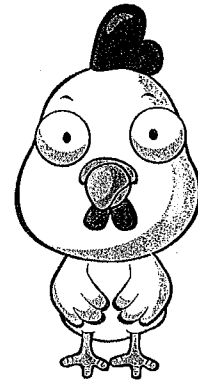
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Weird Birds

Recorder 1

Write in the rhythm of the rhyme.



Weird Birds

Weird	birds	strange	birds
Birds you've	Nev - er	heard	
Make	up your	own	sound no
Mat - ter	How ab-	surd!	

