

Music Makers and Shakers

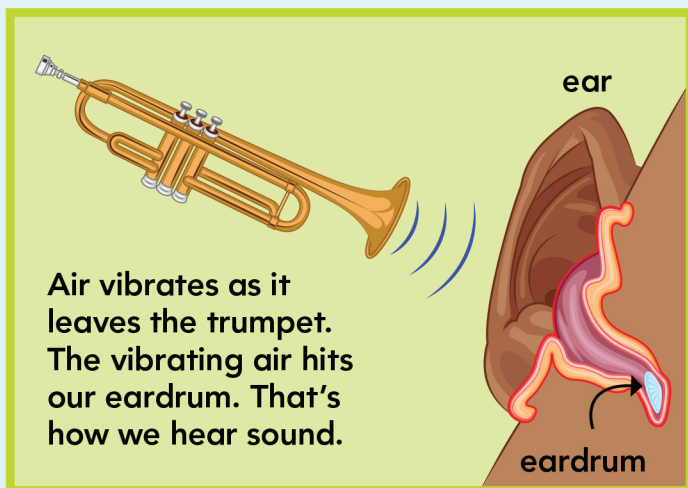


Drums and harps don't look or sound alike.
But they both make music by making vibrations.

When something **vibrates**, it moves back and forth very quickly. Try this: Put your fingers on your throat and say, "vibrations." Can you feel your throat vibrate when you talk? Everything that makes a sound is vibrating, even if you can't see it moving.

How do musicians make their instruments vibrate? A drum is one of the simplest instruments. When you tap the skin of a drum, it vibrates. A harp is played by plucking metal strings. The strings are different lengths. Short strings vibrate quickly. They make high, squeaky sounds. Long strings vibrate slowly. They make low, deep sounds.

When an instrument vibrates, the air around it vibrates too.



The vibrations travel through the air like waves in water. If the sound is loud enough to reach your ears, it vibrates your eardrums. Your ears send signals to your brain. You hear music!