

Investigating Sound!

Your task is to experiment with strings and sound. Follow each step and answer all the questions. You may be called upon to share your answers with the class.

General rules:

1. Respect each other. Take turns to share the instrument equally.
2. If you break your string, raise your hand and wait for one of us to come and help you.
3. If you have a question, raise your hand and wait for one of us.

Think about and answer the following:

1. How long and how wide are the two strings?
2. Pluck a string. Look closely at it. What do you see? Does it look the same in the middle of the string as it does near the ends? If not, what is different?
3. Pluck the two strings. Which string has a higher sound? Why do you think this is the case?
4. Pluck one string. Turn its peg clockwise. Pluck it again. What happens to the sound?
5. Turn the same peg counter-clockwise. Pluck the string. What happens to the sound this time?
6. Now try steps 2 & 3 with the other peg. Do you get the same results? Explain.
7. Why do you think the sound changed when you turned the pegs?

Pitch: That quality of a sound which is governed by the rate of vibrations producing it; the degree of highness or lowness of a tone.

Amplitude: The volume or strength of a sound.