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Toot Whistle Plunk and Boom

By Dick Huemer

- Today we're going to study about...
- Ancient history?
- Love and mystery?
- Mathematics?
- Acrobatics?
- Reading?
- Spelling?
- Storytelling?

No, no, no!

The study of musical instruments
is the subject for today.

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Is the subject for today

Did you ever stop to think
when the band plays rink dink,
where all the music comes from?

From a toot and a whistle
and a plunk and a boom.

That's where the music comes from

Did you ever understand
that a symphony so grand,
so bright and yet sentimental?

Add a toot and a whistle
and a plunk and a boom

How very instrumental

- # For the horns go toot

- # The woodwinds whistle

The strings go plunk, plunk too

Then the drums boom, boom

with a bing, zing, zoom

And it comes out fine in tune

So remember what I say
when the band begins to play
just where the music comes from.

From a and a

And a and a

That's where the music comes from

Now, students, fly with me
to the dawn of history.

We'll start investigating
the toot and the whistle
and the plunk and the boom.

It's very stimulating.

Oops.

OK, boys, you're on.

Goo ah ga ug

Goo ah ga uh

When a caveman blew
through an old cow's horn,
right then and there
the first toot was born.

Duh.

Now, let's look ahead in history,
and here we are in Egypt, 2000 BC.

And now on the banks
of the River Nile

The toot has certainly
changed its style

And the kind of a note
that the caveman blows

Is not good enough
for the old pharaohs

No, it's not good enough
for the old pharaohs #

Now, the longer they made
these ancient trumpets,
the lower they sounded.

One day someone
bumped into a very startling fact.

He had discovered
that changing a trumpet's shape
did not in the least
change its pitch.

The curled or curved bass horn
had been invented.

Ah. But this horn could
produce only certain notes.

To play a simple tune, you would have
to use four horns of different lengths.

Now, cut off these extra lengths,
attach them to one horn,
add valves to control the passage
of air through the extra lengths.

Now you can play your tune
on just one horn.

And this is a basic principle
of our modern brass horns.

Now, let's go back to our whistle.

Goo ah ga ga
When this caveman
blew on a tube of grass,
the very first whistle came to pass.
In order to make his cavegirl smile,
he had to improve his whistle's style.
And when he saw he was doing fine,
he added more holes,
about eight or nine.
By using his head instead of his feet,
some genius found a way
to beat this problem
in a manner neat.

Roo ah ga uh
When our third caveman
plunked on the string of his bow,
it was the first plunk,
as far as we know.

First you take the bow
and sometime later
Add a little jar
to make a resonator
- # Add a few strings
- # Listen, how it rings
Change the jar to a box of wood
- # Slide the box down
- # Ah, pretty good
Add a few pegs
to tune it fine and sharp
- # Change the shape a little
- # Now it looks like a harp #
Here there are two ways to go.
You can either plunk it...

...or play it with a bow.

Goo ah ga uh
Goo ah ga uh
From our last caveman
with his rhythmic slap
have come all things
that click or tap.
Came rattles,
bells,
and, we presume, all other
instruments that go "boom."

With a toot
And a whistle
And a plunk
And a boom right
from the old Stone Ages
Everywhere you hear a band
or a symphony so grand
In music Oriental
The toot and the whistle
and the plunk and the boom
Are very instrumental
Or the trombone's toot
The calliope's whistle
The banjo's plucka-wucka-wucka too
Then the drum boom, boom
with a click, clack, zoom
In a Latin rhythm too
So remember what we say
When the band begins to play
Where all the music comes from
From a toot
And a whistle
And a plunk
And a boom
That's where the music
That's where the music
That's where the music comes from