

Did you know?

- 'Percussion' originates from the Latin word, *percussio*, meaning 'to hit'.
- The first percussion instruments were probably human hands and feet used to clap or stomp a rhythm. Eventually, cultures discovered that they could create louder, more varied sounds with crafted surfaces and implements.
- The first horns were made not of brass, but of natural elements such as conch shells and animal horns.
- Curving the tubes of brass instruments makes them easier to hold and play. Even a small trumpet would be over six feet long if laid out as a single tube!
- Some large bass tubas (sousaphones) used in marching bands are partly made from fibreglass, to make them lighter and easier to carry.
- Trumpets were used long ago in ancient Egypt. However, it was only in 1820 that the valve was invented, creating the trumpet design we know today. Valves allow the player to play a wider range of notes by changing the length of the tube through which the air travels.
- The largest brass band was comprised of 15,761 musicians who gathered to play at a stadium in Leipzig, Germany on 1st June, 2008. The stadium was so vast that there was a two-second delay between the conductor and the music!
- The largest drum kit ever constructed was made by Mark Temperato, and consisted of 813 pieces, weighing more than 2230 kg. It took him an hour to strike every piece!
- According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the largest drum in the world measures 5.54 m in diameter, is 5.96 m tall and weighs 7 tonnes. It was created in South Korea. Where do they keep it?
- The word 'rhythm' comes from the Greek word 'rhythmos', meaning 'measured motion'.
- 'Rhythm helps your two hips move' is a handy mnemonic to remind us how to spell the word 'rhythm'!

