

# Roman Music



# Roman Music

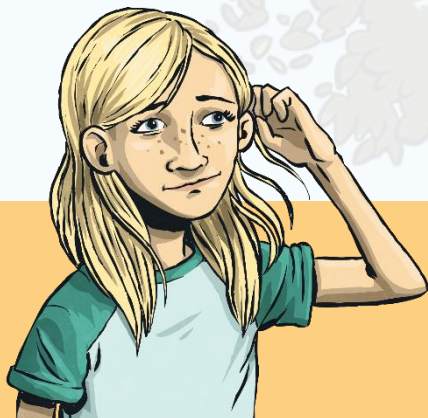
What kind of music do you think the Romans listened to?

What instruments did they play?

What did it sound like?







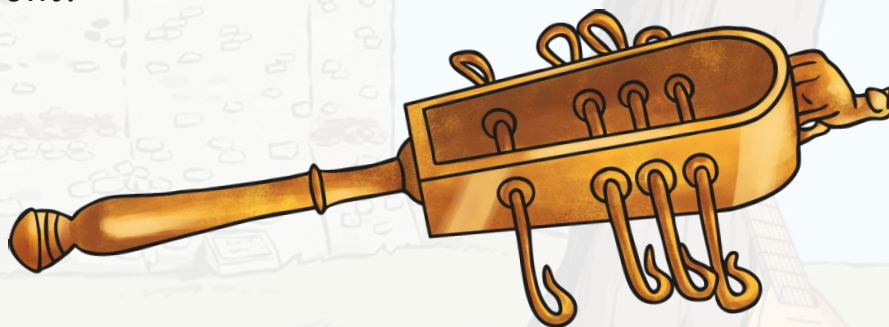
# Roman Music

Put on your historian hat. Talk to your partner. What can you deduce about this instrument from the picture? Use the questions to help you.

What materials might it be made from?

Who might have played it?

How might it have been played?



How might it have been held?

Do you notice anything particularly interesting about it?

What kind of sound might it make?

# Roman Music

Choose an instrument and draw it. What can you deduce?  
Make notes around it.





# Roman Music

How do we know that Romans enjoyed music? What clues can we find?





# Roman Music

This mosaic shows instruments being played.

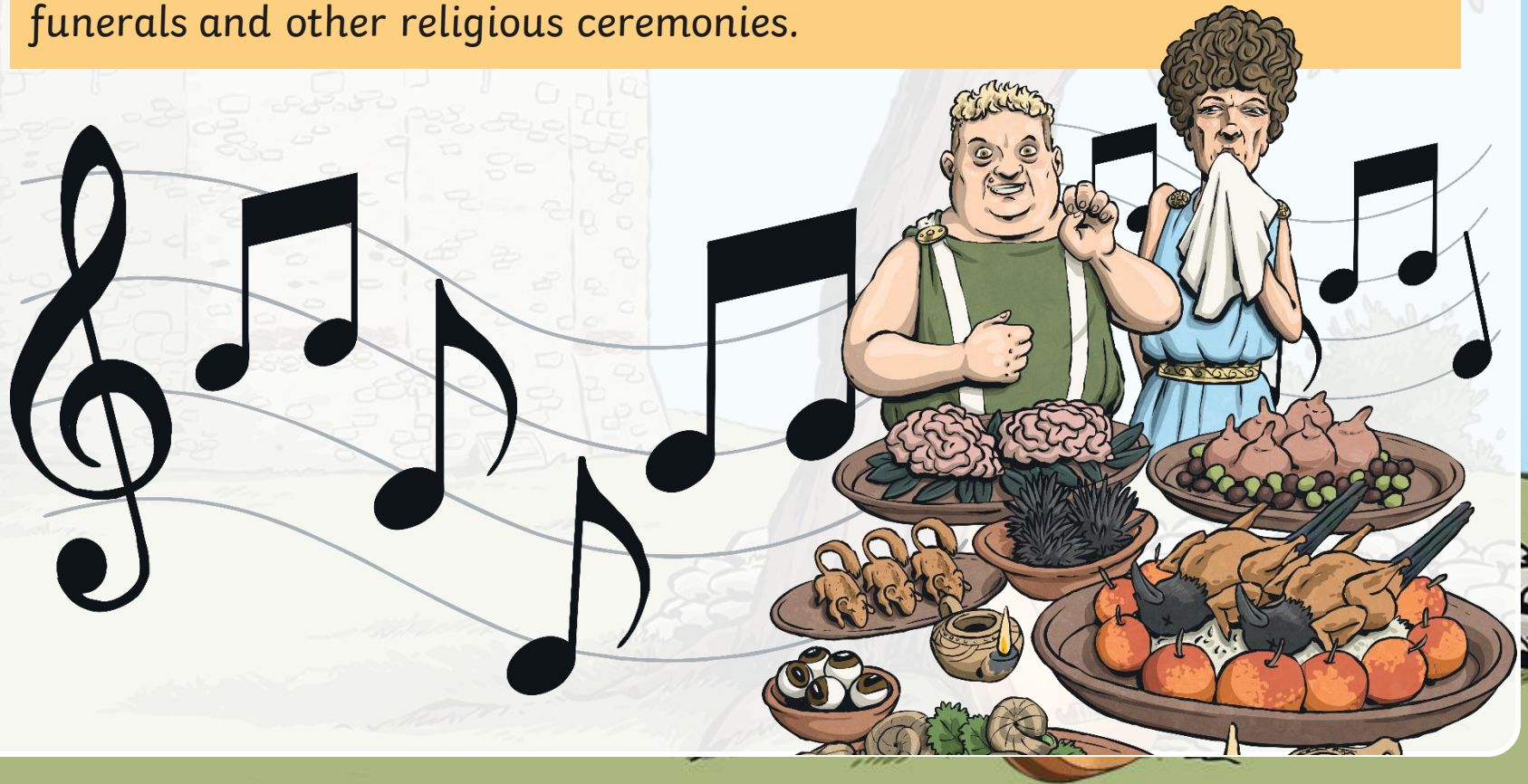


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# Roman Music

Music was a part of Roman culture and happened at most social occasions. Music would play at arenas to accompany games and other events. It was also a part of early theatre. Music was customary at funerals and other religious ceremonies.



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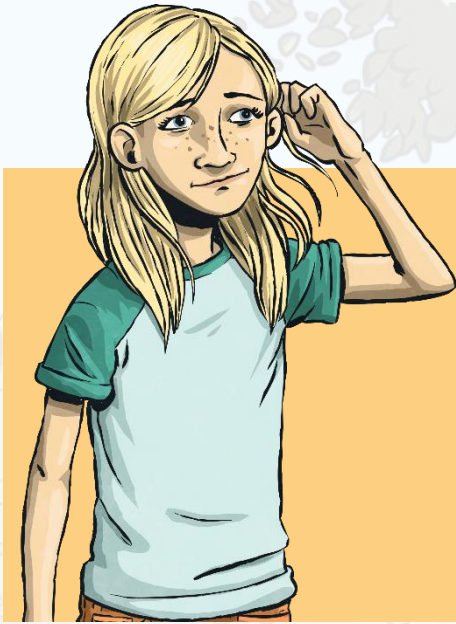
Examples of Roman art show various wind, stringed and percussion instruments. This carving shows a member of the wind family. It is a brass instrument called a **cornu**.



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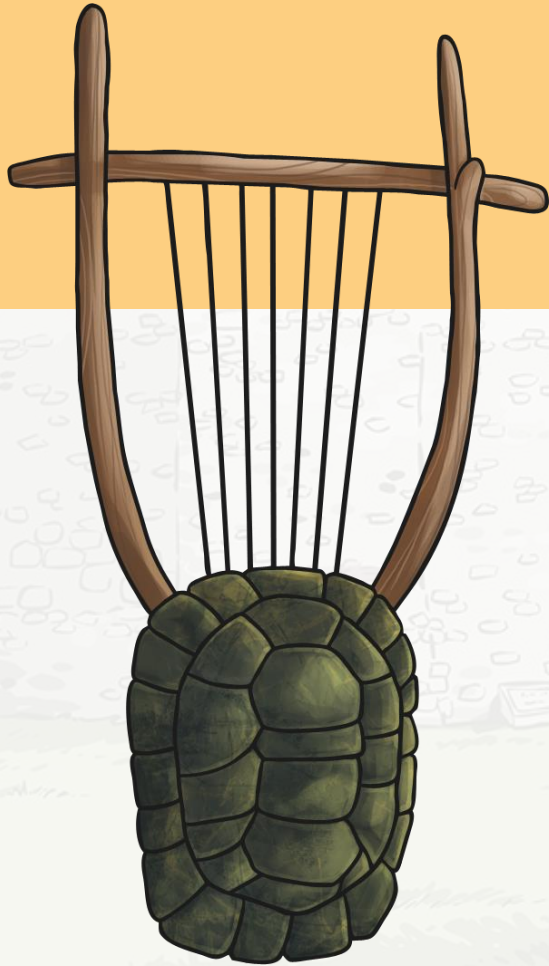
# Roman Music



An instrument called a **tuba** was used by the military, and was nothing like today's tuba! The Roman tuba was a long, straight, bronze trumpet with a detachable, conical mouthpiece like you can see on a modern trumpet. It had no valves. Examples have been found which are about 1.3 metres long.



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The **lyre** was like a simple harp. It had a frame of wood or tortoise shell and various strings stretched across it. To play it, you would cradle it in one arm and pluck the strings with your other hand.

The god Apollo is playing the lyre in this sculpture.

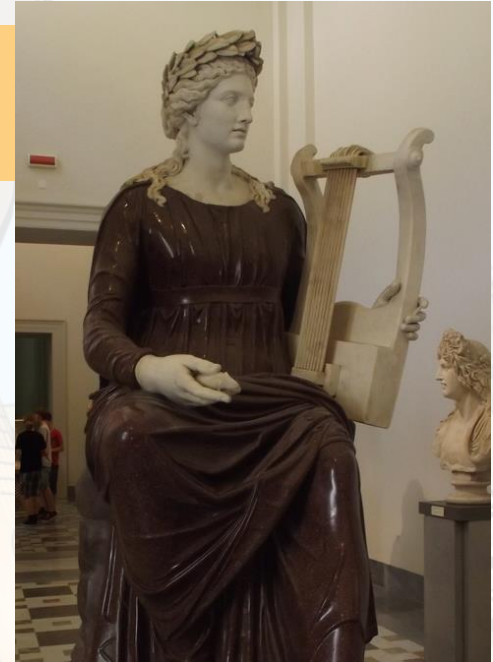
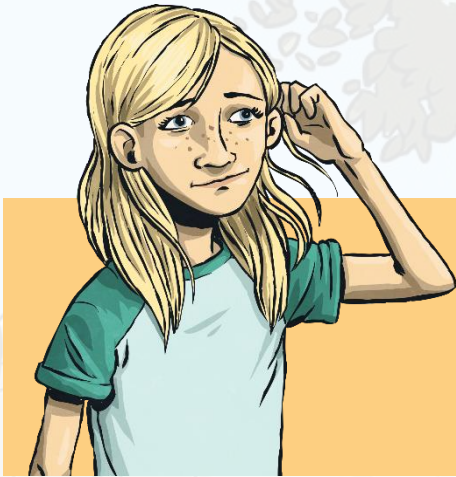


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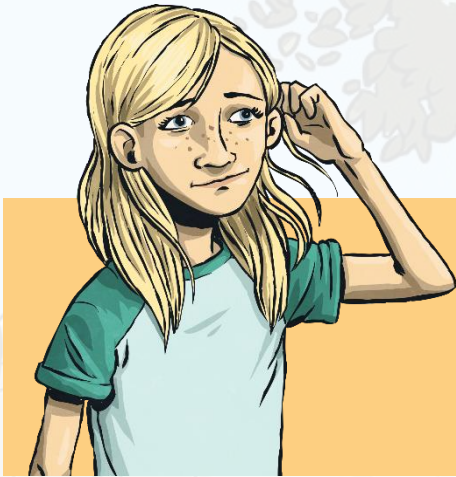
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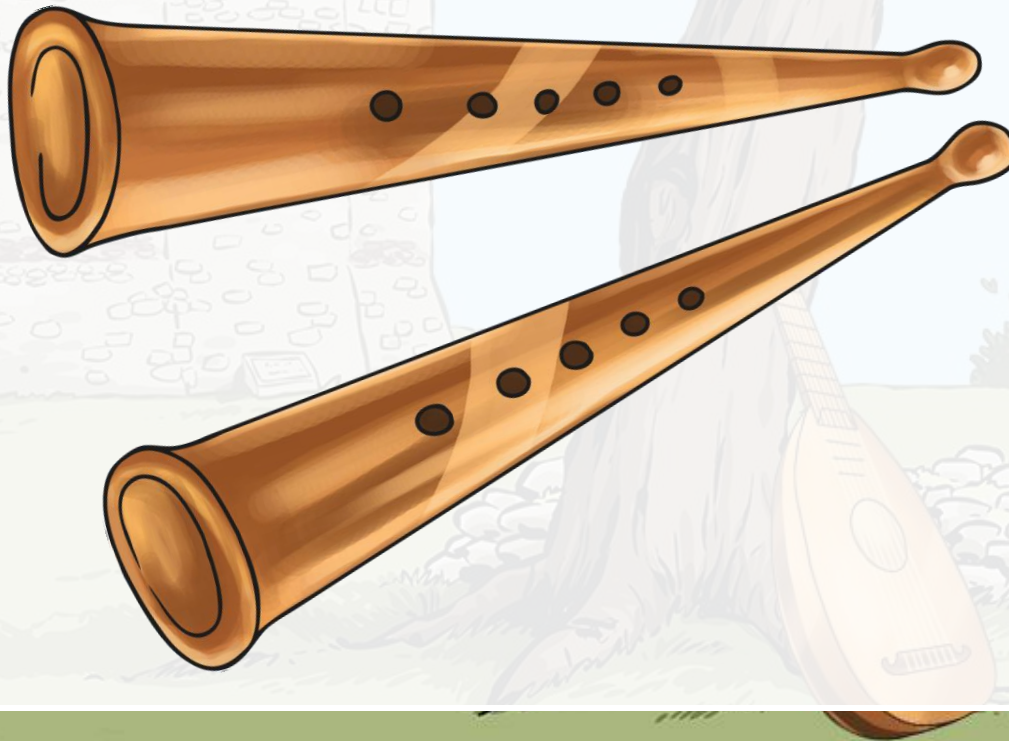
The **lute**, an ancestor of the guitar, is considered a medieval instrument but was played by the ancient Romans. The Roman lute had three strings and was easier to play than a lyre.



# Roman Music

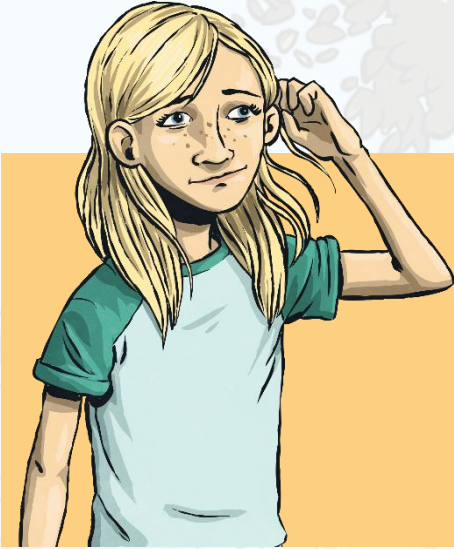


The **aulos** was two double-reed pipes, not joined but generally played with a mouth-band to hold both pipes steadily between the player's lips. They probably produced a low, clarinet-like sound.

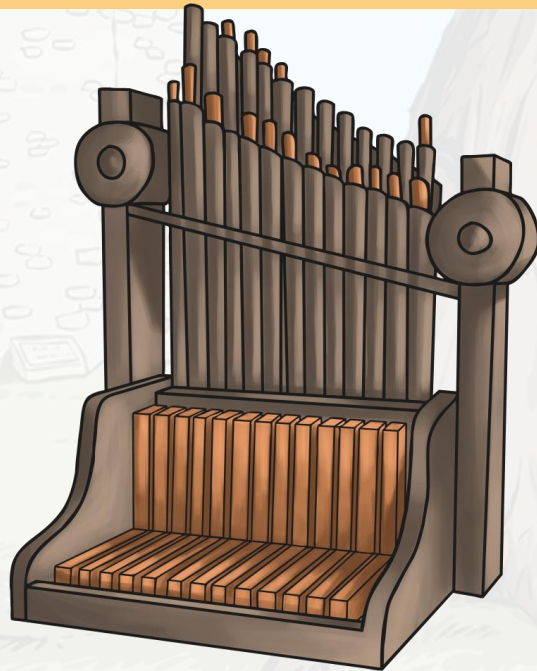




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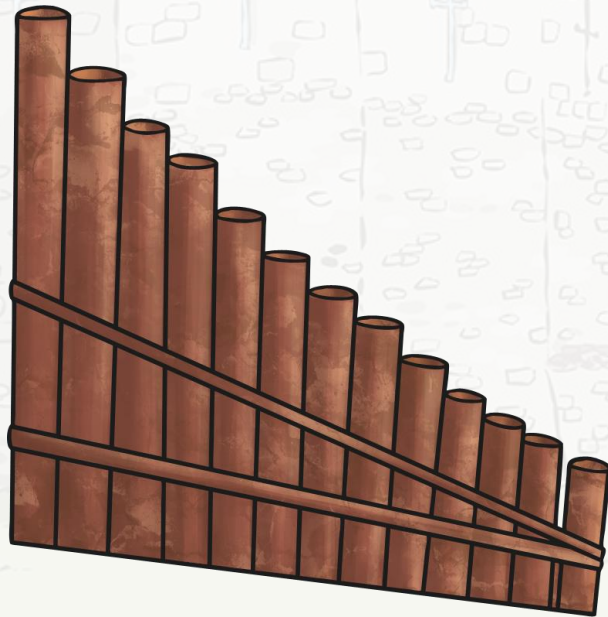


This is an early version of an **organ**. Each of the pipes was sized differently to produce a different sound. The Roman instruments seem to be a cross between the bagpipes and the modern organ. It has not been established if they were blown by the lungs or by some mechanical bellows.



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The **panpipes** were a line of pipes which were blown across the top. They were all different lengths to create the different notes.

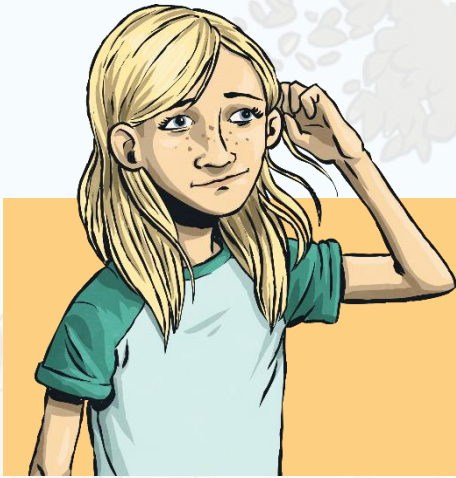


On this silver dish, Pan is playing the panpipes.

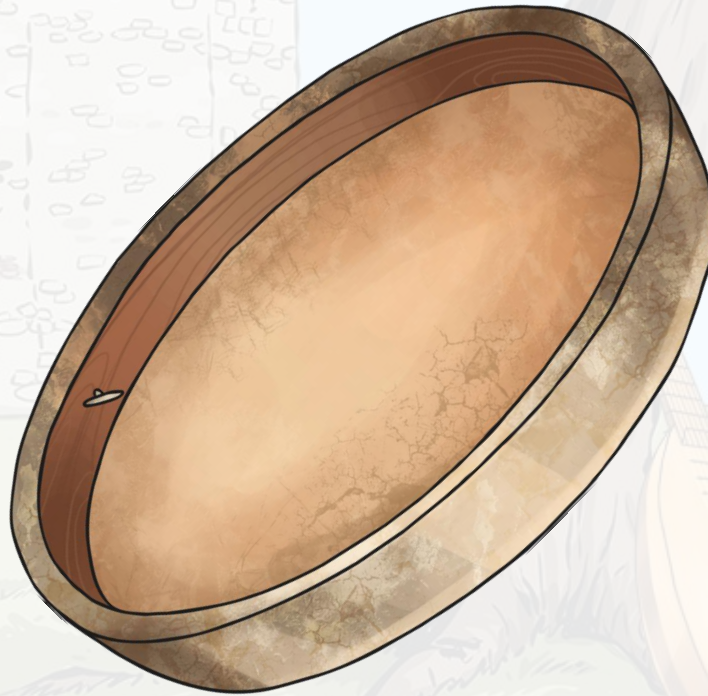
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# Roman Music



The **tympanum** was a hand drum similar to a round frame drum or tambourine today. It was circular, shallow, and to play it you would hold it in one hand and beat it with the other.

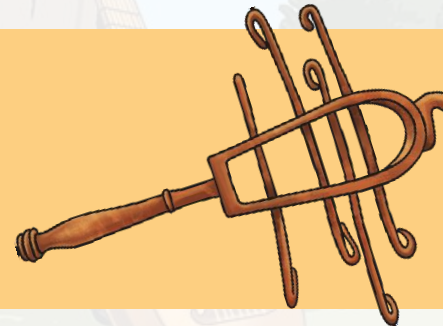


# Roman Music

In Roman music, **percussion** instruments included a hinged wooden or metal device, called a **scabellum**, used to beat time. There were various rattles, bells and tambourines, drums, timpani and castanets. Percussion was also used for rhythmic dance, celebratory rites, military uses, hunting (to drive out prey) and even for the control of bees!



The **sistrum** was a rattle consisting of rings strung across the cross-bars of a metal frame, which was often used for ritual purposes.





# Your task

Using the slides within the PowerPoint. Write about at least three different Roman musical instruments.

Draw a picture of the instrument and then write a short piece of text each instrument. Remember to focus on what the instrument was made from and how it was played.

Challenge– Can you explain which modern day instrument your instruments are similar to?

Challenge 2 - What type of instrument do you think this is? How do you think the instrument was played?

Explain your reasoning.

