

# Blaze's Buddies

## Fun facts about recorders

A recorder is a woodwind musical instrument that you blow into to produce a sound.

It was known as the English flute in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries when it enjoyed tremendous popularity and was played by everyone from the rich to the poor.

In the past, recorders were typically handmade using a variety of beautiful hardwoods such as maple, rosewood, ebony and boxwood. They were often decorated with ivory, or even made completely from ivory. No king was without his set of handcrafted recorders. King Henry VIII owned a collection of 47 recorders and composed music for the recorder. Today, recorders are made of plastic as well as wood.

There are seven different sizes of recorder being used today, the smallest being about 23cm in length, the largest about 2.4 metres in length. They produce different sounds, the smallest one being a much higher pitch than the largest.

The recorder is most often played with the guitar, piano, harpsichord, or with a group of other recorders; this is called a consort of recorders.

We have a wooden recorder on display in the Museum, in the special exhibition Cabinets of Curiosity (gallery 10).

