



## Strike Up the Band



photo by Master Sgt. Amanda Simmons, courtesy U.S. Marine Band

Americans will celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May 30. Memorial Day is a special day set aside to honor our servicemen and -women who have lost their lives while serving in the military.

You might attend a parade or a concert where military bands play patriotic music. Military music has a long tradition. Thousands of years ago, the Greeks and Romans used drummers to help the troops march in step at the same speed.

Today the branches of our military have bands that play to entertain and inspire those in the armed services as well as civilians. Military musicians are on active duty.

The U.S. Marine Band is our oldest professional musical organization, founded in 1798 by an act of Congress. It has grown from 32 members to about 130.

### 'The President's Own'

In 1801, the U.S. Marine Band played for President Thomas Jefferson's inauguration. He named it "The President's Own." It has played for every inauguration since.

The mission of the U.S. Marine Band is to play for the president of the United States. The band



The Marine Band plays for some funerals at Arlington National Cemetery.

photo by Master Sgt. Kristin duBois, courtesy U.S. Marine Band

performs at concerts and ceremonial events as well. For instance, the band plays at the White House for the National Christmas Tree lighting, for the Easter Egg Roll and on Independence Day. Marine Band musicians appear at the White House about 200 times each year.

### Joining the Marine Band

Musicians must audition to join the Marine Band. First, a musician performs behind a screen so that the judges can't see him or her.

A committee from the band then interviews musicians chosen from the auditions. Once accepted, musicians join the Marine Corps. Members of this band are not asked to go into combat.

### The uniform

Members of the U.S. Marine Band wear scarlet, or red, coats with blue or white pants or skirts. Their hats are white. These uniforms have been used since the Revolutionary War, when field musicians were used to send signals on the battlefield and in camp and needed to be easily recognizable.

Along with a large bearskin hat, the drum major wears a fancy sash across his chest called a baldric. He uses his mace, or staff, to signal directions to the musicians.



The drum major wears a special uniform and a large fur hat.

photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Ruff, courtesy U.S. Marine Band

### Mini Fact:

Each branch of the U.S. military has bands that represent that part of the military.

### John Philip Sousa



photo courtesy U.S. Marine Corps

John Philip Sousa

The 17th director of the Marine Band, John Philip Sousa (SOO-za), gets credit for developing the band to a high level of excellence. His father was a member of the Marine Band, and as a child he studied many instruments, but he loved the violin.

When John was just 13, he became an apprentice member of the Marine Band, and he remained a band member until he was 20.

In 1880, when Sousa was 26, he was offered the director position with the Marine Band. He was a strict director, and the band got better. Sousa also wrote many marches for bands. Eventually he became known as the March King. Listen for his music at Memorial Day or Independence Day celebrations.



photo courtesy U.S. Marine Band

The Sousaphone is named for John Philip Sousa.

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [www.marineband.marines.mil](http://www.marineband.marines.mil)
- [youtu.be/YvnnzDgNj6o](https://youtu.be/YvnnzDgNj6o)
- [bit.ly/1qw5WIY](https://bit.ly/1qw5WIY)
- [bit.ly/1q9elpq](https://bit.ly/1q9elpq)

### At the library:

- "John Philip Sousa" by Mike Venezia

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the Marine Band are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- APPRENTICE,
- AUDITION, BAND,
- BEARSKIN, CEREMONY,
- CONCERT, CONGRESS,
- DAY, DIRECTOR,
- INAUGURATION,
- INTERVIEW, MARINE,
- MEMORIAL, MUSICIAN,
- OWN, PARADE,
- PRESIDENTS, SOUSA.

D W D X S S E R G N O C H M E  
 C E N D F N O I T I D U A A D  
 O I A P P R E N T I C E K R A  
 N V B X P R O T C E R I D I R  
 C R C E R E M O N Y D A Y N A  
 E E X J M U S I C I A N Z E P  
 R T C I N A U G U R A T I O N  
 T N I K S R A E B G N V N W O  
 A I F Q V M E M O R I A L J G  
 A S U O S S T N E D I S E R P

## Cook's Corner

### Baked Sliced Tomatoes

#### You'll need:

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 cup breadcrumbs
- 3 tomatoes, sliced thick
- salt

- pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- paprika



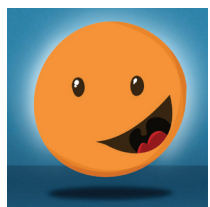
\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

#### What to do:

1. Put beaten eggs in one small bowl and breadcrumbs in another.
2. Dip each tomato slice in the eggs and then in the breadcrumbs.
3. Place tomato slices side by side on a greased cookie sheet. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Dot tops of tomatoes with butter.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 15 minutes.
5. Remove from oven, sprinkle with cheese and paprika, and bake for 5 more minutes. Makes 4 servings.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. fish in a can (4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. pet kept in a bowl (8) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Curious George is one (6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. the biggest planet (7) \_\_\_\_\_
5. pig in "Charlotte's Web" (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. underwater vessel (9) \_\_\_\_\_
7. colors in the sky (7) \_\_\_\_\_

GOLD	MONK	MAR	NA
WIL	ER	PIT	JU
BUR	SUB	TU	INE
EY	BOW	FISH	RAIN

Answers: tuna, goldfish, monkey, Jupiter, Wilbur, submarine, rainbow.

## Mini Jokes



**Norma:** How deep is that river?

**Ned:** Not very — it only reaches that duck's waist!

**Kathleen:** What time does a duck wake up?

**Kyle:** At the quack of dawn!

## Eco Note



Setting up a birdbath or feeder in your backyard is a great way to bring birds into your yard. Birds are always hungry. They use so much energy that they need to eat all the time. You can spread peanut butter all over a pinecone, roll the cone in bird seed and hang it outside. Or hang up some orange peels — another great bird treat!

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com)

## For later:

Look in your newspaper for Memorial Day events in your area.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching\\_guides.html](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html)

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