



The Mini Page

Next Week:
What is federalism?

Issue 27, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

Strike Up the Band



U.S. Army Photo by SFC Heather Tribble

Mini Fact:

The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps wear uniforms like those worn by musicians in George Washington's Continental Army.

Marching bands are part of many Fourth of July celebrations. Let's find out more about these talented musical groups.



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Cody W. Torkelson

U.S. Army soldiers with The Old Guard participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Marching with the troops

Marching bands began in the military. When armies had to relocate thousands of troops, the rhythm of drums helped speed up the soldiers.

Because there was an exact rhythm, commanders could judge how long it would take to move the army from one place to the next.

In the 1700s, some armies started using a fife, or small flute, along with the drums.

Bands march to school

Later, military bands began to play more for ceremonial occasions. In the 1800s, colleges began to form bands.

In the early 1900s, marching bands began performing during halftime at college football games. This was so popular that high schools

started their own bands. Today, marching band performances are favorite parts of high school games.

At first, women were not allowed to belong to most bands. People thought it was improper for girls. During World War II, many women took men's places in bands. In the 1970s, college bands started admitting women.

Besides musicians, bands might include dancers, baton twirlers and color guards. Color guards don't play instruments, but put on shows with flags or rifle props.



Photo by Prayitno

The leading players

In schools, the band director is usually the teacher. He or she is responsible for the music and for all the musicians.

He or she may also create some or all of the drill designs. Band directors may use computer programs that map out the drill designs.



Photo by Shireen Garcia

The drum majors are the second in command. They conduct the band when it is marching. In school bands, they are students who help carry out the duties of the band director.

The instruments

The main types of marching band instruments are:

- **percussion**, such as drums and cymbals, played by being struck;
- **brass**, such as trumpets and trombones, played when musicians vibrate their lips on the mouthpiece;
- **woodwind**, such as clarinets and saxophones, played by musicians blowing air into them.



Sousaphone



Concert tuba

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Terry Brady

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Gunnery Sgt. Amanda Simmons

Many instruments were designed especially for marching bands. For example, in the concert band tuba, the bell points up. But in its cousin, the sousaphone, the bell points forward so it fits better over the marcher's shoulder.

Marching styles vary with each individual band. Many marching bands and drum corps mix styles.

Members of drum corps usually play only brass or percussion instruments. They may have one soloist playing a woodwind instrument. They might dance, leap and run while playing.

Resources



On the Web:

- fifeanddrum.army.mil/
- youtu.be/XDQ2rAQl03M

At the library:

- "Marching Bands" by Ruth Daly

The Mini Page® © 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Try 'n' Find

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



BAND, BATON, BRASS, CELEBRATION, COLLEGE, DANCER, DIRECTOR, DRUM MAJOR, FIFE, FLAG, INSTRUMENT, MARCH, MILITARY, MUSIC, PERCUSSION, RHYTHM, SCHOOL, SOUSAPHONE, TUBA, WOODWIND.

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

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy is playing in the band on the Fourth of July! See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

Hey Mini Spy Fans! Order your Mini Spy Booklets (Volumes 1, 2 and 3) with 48 of your favorite puzzles! Visit MiniPageBooks.com, or call 844-426-1256 to order. Just \$4 plus \$1 shipping.

Based on materials originally produced and/or created by Betty Debnam.

- cheese wedge
- word MINI
- cardinal
- squirrel
- whale
- letter A
- number 7
- heart
- banana
- number 3
- carrot
- letter V
- key
- lips
- pea pod
- kite
- owl

Mini Jokes



- Billy:** How did the marching band fix a broken tuba?
Blaine: With a tuba glue!

Eco Note



Millions of singing insects across parts of the eastern United States will soon emerge from the ground after 17 years. Cicadas are large, clear-winged insects with bulbous eyes that emerge every year or in cycles of 13 or 17 years. The cicadas' habitat stretches from North Carolina to West Virginia, where as many as 1.5 million can surface per acre. You may have seen their brown husks on trees and other objects.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper's ads for band instruments for sale. What instrument would you like to play?

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



The Mini Page® © 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Books from The Mini Page are wonderful resources and make great gifts! See all of our Mini Page products at MiniPageBooks.com, or call 800-642-6480 for more information. Mail payment to: Andrews McMeel Universal, Mini Page Books, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106. Include \$4.00 shipping and handling per order.

