Cello

VIRGINIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

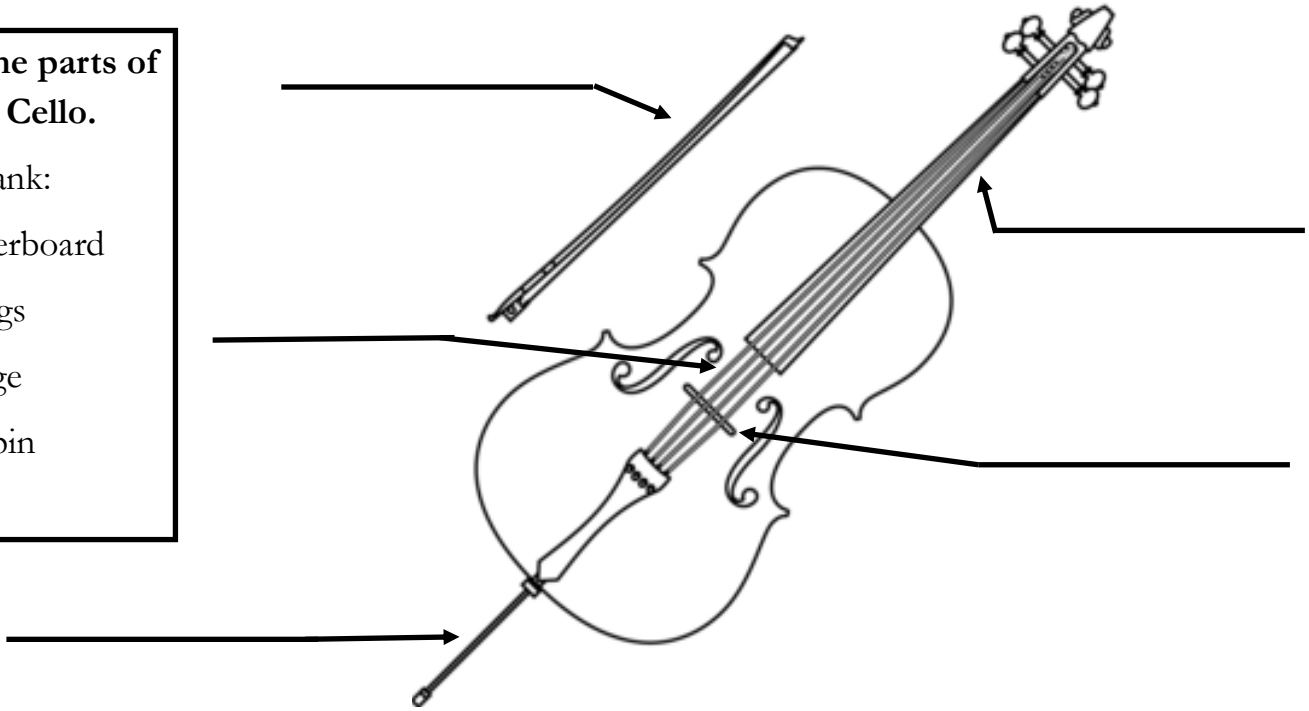
Music Learning Lab

Virtual Petting Zoo

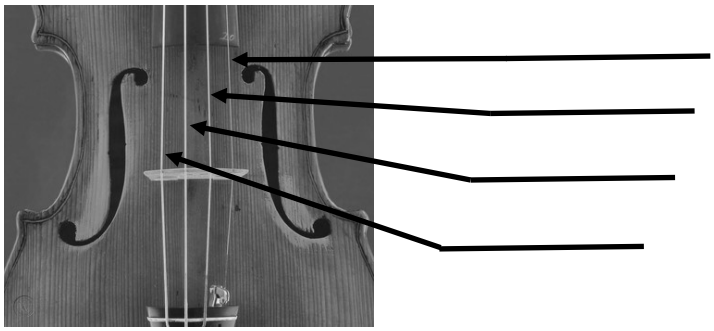
Label the parts of the Cello.

Word Bank:

- Fingerboard
- Strings
- Bridge
- Endpin
- Bow



1) The Cello is a member of the String Family. When were string instruments first made?_____
2) The bow is made out of _____ and _____.
3) Fingers press down on the string against the _____.
4) Can you label the 4 strings of the cello below?



5) Mike mentioned two types of bowing—legato and spiccato—how do they sound different?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Cello

Vocabulary

- String Family: The String Family is the largest family in the entire orchestra consisting of the violin, viola, cello, and double bass
- Legato: in a smooth flowing manner, without breaks between notes
- Spiccato: a bowing technique in which the bow bounces lightly upon the string
- Minuet: a slow ballroom dance in three
- Composer: a person who writes music
- Bowing: the technique of managing the bow in playing a stringed instrument

Further Listening:

Hear cellist Yo-Yo Ma play the

Saint-Saëns *Carnival of the Animals, The Swan*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qrKjywjo7Q

and the Bach *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGgG-0lOJjk

For more videos, please visit https://virginiasymphony.org/learninglab/

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Answer Key

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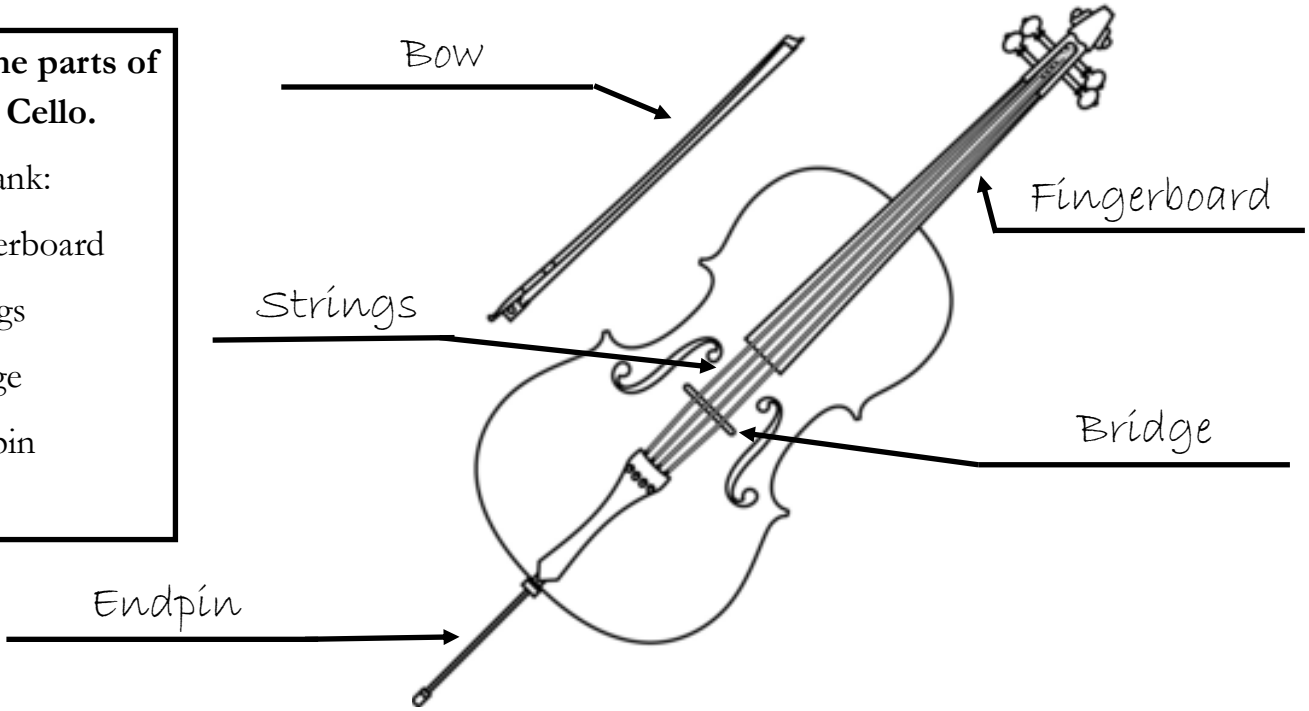
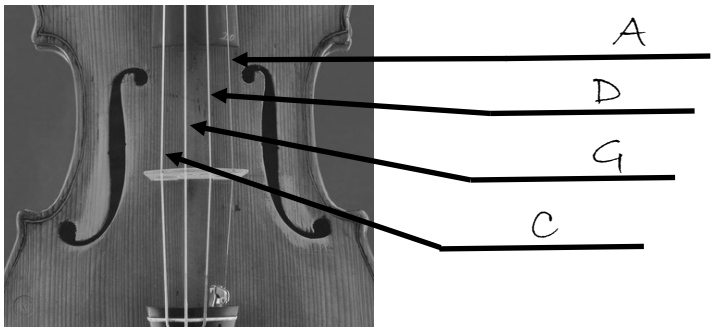


1) The Cello is a member of the String Family. When were string instruments first made? 1500s
2) The bow is made out of wood and horse hair.
3) Fingers press down on the string against the fingerboard.
4) Can you label the 4 strings of the cello below?



5) Mike mentioned two types of bowing—legato and spiccato—how do they sound different?
Think about how fast and slow the bow was. Were the notes separated or smooth?