

Make a Simple Wind Harp



The wind vibrates the string on this harp, creating an unusual sound which varies in volume with the strength of the wind.

Different pitches created by the vibrating string are related to

- length
- tension
- thickness

Several harps together add to the vitality of the sound

Materials to make harp

- Hazel branch at least 2.5 metres long
- Loppers to cut thick end to a point
- Parcel ribbon (3mm wide, the curly type that can make presents look fancy)
- Scissors



Equipment and materials to ensure the harp stands up in the wind

- A dibber
- A mallet

If extra support is needed:

- Three chords of string 1.5m each
- Three tent pegs

Method to make the harp

Cut about a 2-metre length of ribbon

Tie the ribbon on to the hazel at about 20cm from the top (thin end)

With a partner, pull the ribbon towards the thick end of the hazel, thus bending the hazel into a curve

Keeping the tension very taut and without twisting the ribbon, tie it on to the hazel, leaving at least 50cm at the bottom. The tension must be tight to make the best sound.



How to keep it upright in the ground

Choose a windy place for your harp, away from footballs!

Using the dibber and mallet, make a hole about 12cm deep in the ground

Taking care not to break the ribbon, holding the lower end of the harp, press it into the hole.

If the harp needs extra support, tie the three chords of string to the hazel about 1m from the ground

Create a loop in each chord with a slip knot

Pass the tent pegs through the loops and drive them into the ground evenly spaced around the harp.

Tighten the chords so that the hazel is upright.

Make sure the chords have not interfered with the vibration of the ribbon

Stand back and listen to the wind to vibrating your harp! Can you change the pitch? When does the volume increase and decrease?