

CHAPTER 2

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!



KEY WORDS

ARTICULATION

The use of the tongue to clarify and shape sounds. The “T” or “D” at the beginning of the blow gives a clear start to the sound, like a snap of the fingers.

IMPROVISE

To make or create something using your own ideas and skills.

PITCH

How high or low a note sounds.

BECAUSE THE BISON HORN was so loud, Ragnar could use it to communicate with friends far away from camp. He could also use it to call everyone together, or to warn of danger. After a successful hunt, he blew it to let people know the good news. He also used it to announce the start of a celebration.

To make the calls and signals easily recognizable for his friends, Ragnar needed to practice them over and over until he could play them the same way every time. He also realized that he had to work on other things, such as playing long notes and practicing **articulation** to make his sounds clear and steady.

Ragnar liked to practice by himself in his cave, where he could concentrate on playing and not be distracted by what was going on outside. He liked to **improvise**, often imitating the sounds of animals. These sounds echoed inside the walls of the cave.

REALITY CHECK! What the Experts Say About CAVE PAINTINGS

Caves that were once inhabited by Paleolithic people have been discovered all over the world. Many of them are located in France and Spain and contain paintings from 10,000 to 35,000 years ago. The paintings include images of horses, bison, and deer. We don't know if prehistoric people practiced playing horns in caves. But some experts who study the caves think that prehistoric people used the paintings and musical sounds as part of a ritual, or ceremony, to communicate with their gods or with the spirit world.



DID YOU KNOW?

On cave walls, prehistoric people often made marks (called fluting) with their hands and fingers. Experts discovered that in many of these spots, the caves resonate when a specific **pitch** is sung or played. Although we cannot say for sure that this is why prehistoric people marked the cave walls, it is possible they recognized the special sound properties of these spots in the cave. These spots are similar to a harmonic note on a lip-blown instrument: to make it resonate, you have to buzz the right pitch into it.



CHAPTER 2

PRACTICE CAVE

EXERCISES!

LONG NOTE EXERCISES



How many seconds can you hold your sound?

Can you keep your sound steady?

- Hold a sound steady for **4 seconds**
- Hold a sound steady for **6 seconds**

ARTICULATION EXERCISES

Try to make your sound start clearly by using the tip of your tongue to say “T” or “D” each time you start a new note. It should sound like a snap of the fingers.

- ① a. ② a.
 b. b.

MAKE MUSIC!

IMPROVISE

- The sound of a galloping horse
- The sound of a roaring lion

REMEMBER

GET READY,

GET SET,

PLAY!

PLAY ALONG

- ① Make yourself sound big and scary!
- ② Sound the alarm - a dangerous storm is coming!
- ③ Signal that it's time to come home



LISTEN & PLAY ONLINE

Sound files for this page are available
at www.practiccave.com

ARE YOU A
MUSIC READER?

Follow along with music notation
for these exercises on page 75.