

There once was a king who had a very beautiful daughter. When she was a little girl, she was happy. She loved music and she sang more happily than any songbird in the forest.

But now the princess was older and she was unhappy. She never sang. She never even smiled. No one really knew why.

'I have never seen my daughter so sad,' said the king. 'I so want to see her happy again!'



The king talked to his best advisers. 'How can I make the princess happy?' he asked. 'She needs a hobby,' said one adviser. 'She should collect butterflies!'

'Has she ever seen a clown?' said another. 'A clown will make her laugh!'

The king tried their ideas but they didn't work. Finally, the king remembered the princess's love of music.

'Music made my daughter happy once,' said the king. 'It can make her happy again!'



Facts About Flutes

The flute is one of the world's oldest instruments. In 2008, a flute made from animal bone was found in a European cave. The flute is thought to be about 40,000 years old!

Most flutes look like a thin, hollow tube. To play a flute, a person blows air into a hole in the instrument. Flutes usually have finger holes. Different notes are created by putting fingers over different holes. Flutes can be made of many different materials such as wood, metal, bamboo or bone.

People around the world play many different kinds of flutes. These are just a few.

Pan Flute

The pan flute is used in many cultures, but it is particularly popular in South America. This flute has a row of five or more tubes connected by strips of bamboo or colourful cloth. The tubes are different lengths. Each tube creates a different sound when a person blows into it.



The Shakuhachi

The shakuhachi is a Japanese flute that is usually made of thick bamboo. This flute came from China to Japan in ancient times. Because it has a relaxing sound, it was used by Zen Buddhist monks for meditation.



The Nose Flute

The nose flute is played in many countries and areas bordering the Pacific Ocean. People play the nose flute by closing off one of their nostrils and blowing air with the other nostril into a hole in the flute.

