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## The Violin

## Some Background Knowledge

by Beatrice Wilder

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More pages coming soon ......

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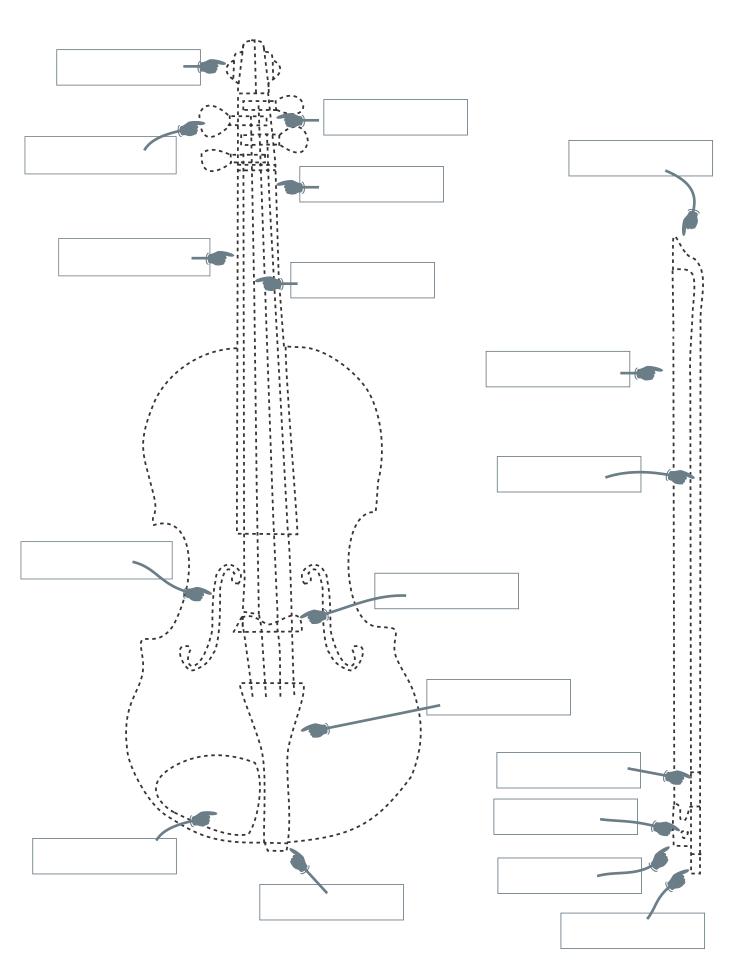
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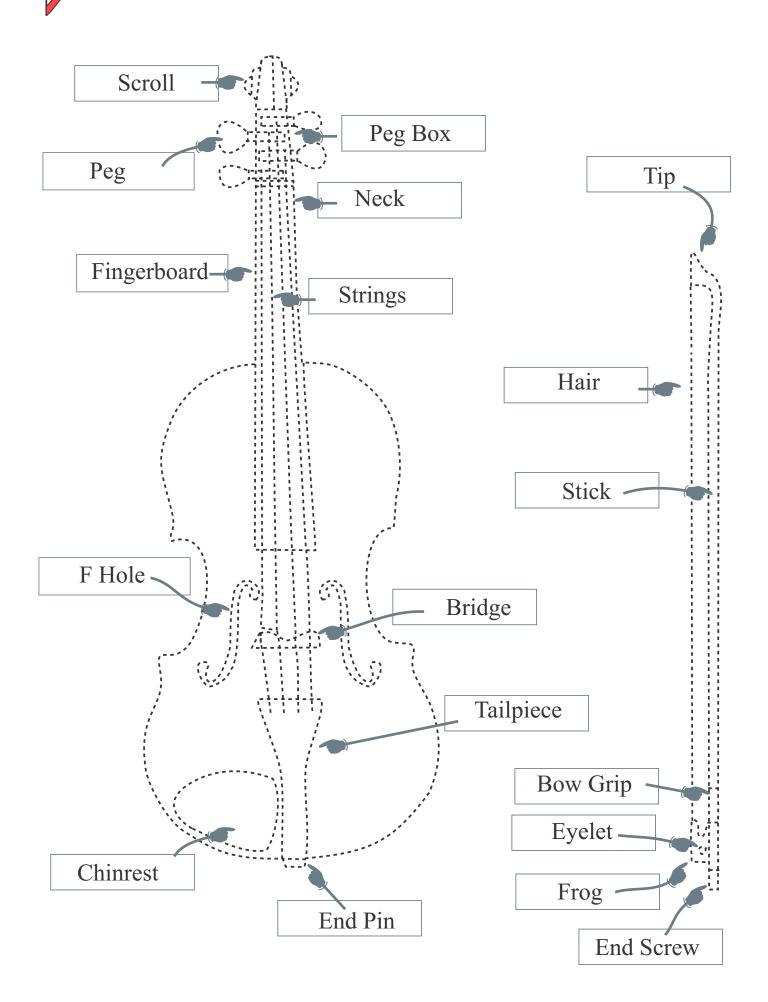
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2 - Trace and Label - Answers

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- The violin is sometimes called a fiddle and a violinist is also called a fiddler.
- The four members of the violin family are: violin, viola, cello and bass.
- Violins have four strings which are tuned in perfect fifths.
- The strings are labelled E, A, D and G. The E has the highest pitch and G the lowest.
- The violin is held against the left collar bone, with the chin resting on the chin-rest.
- The violin is usually played either by drawing a bow across the strings or by plucking the strings.
- The violin is most commonly seen in a symphony orchestra but is also used in jazz, popular and folk music.
- Horse hairs, from a horse's tail, coated with rosin, are used for the bow strings.
- Rosin is made from the resin of plants, mostly pines. It is made into solid cakes which is rubbed onto the bow strings to produce a good sound.
- Violin strings used to be made of "catgut" which was not cat's intestines, but sheep's intestines stretched tight, dried out and twisted. These days they are most often steel or synthetic fibres.