

Bells and Gongs

Bells and gongs are percussion instruments. They are **struck** to make a sound. They may be found in places of worship, schools, public buildings and homes.

A bell is hollow with a flared mouth. It is struck with a **clapper** which hangs freely and strikes the inside edge of the bell when the bell is swung.



This bell is called 'Big Ben'.

Find out more about Big Ben.

Bells come in many different sizes. They may be huge or tiny and are usually made from metal.



Clappers

Bells in a church tower.

What difference does the size of a bell make to the sound?

Bells may be hung from a beam, sometimes in a bell tower or held by hand.



Photo by Piers Wolf

Bell in shrine doorway, Hindu Temple



Bell tower, Birmingham Cathedral



A hand bell.



Hand-held Sleigh Bells

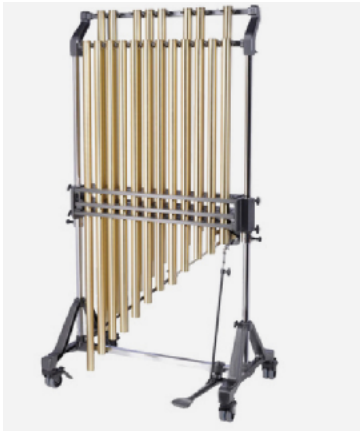
Why are these sometimes known as 'jingle bells'?



Photo by Piers Wolf

Tiny bells decorate the Torah in a Synagogue.

Note to teachers
Questions for discussion and research are indicated by colour coding. There are links provided for a practical activity to make a clay bell and to provide information about how bells and gongs are made.



These **tubular bells** are used as a percussion instrument in an orchestra.

Why are the tubes different sizes?
Which one will make the highest sound?



How many words can you find which describe the sound of bells?

Listen to Mike Oldfield 'Tubular Bells'.

A gong is a circular piece of metal with rounded edges. It makes a resonant sound when struck with a mallet just like its name.

Go—ng—ng—ng—ng—ng—ng—ng!!!

It is believed that gongs were invented in China in the 6th century.



World Peace Gong-Hungary.

Explore Peace Bell in Peace Memorial Park Hiroshima

Find out about Ken Richmond who for decades was seen striking the gong that heralded the opening credits for dozens of films produced by the J. Arthur Rank Films.



Some Useful Links

A creative activity on You Tube : The Awesome Arts.

Clay bells (very simple and easy).

<https://youtu.be/IHdRL5t2mK0>

You Tube: How to make a Bell. Guy Fox

YouTube: Making of the 2019 London Real Gong by May Nolan Custom

Time for food!

Time!

To signal the start or end of something

Attention!

BELLS AND GONGS have several uses

Help us to **FOCUS**

On Prayer or Meditation

CELEBRATION

Coronation Wedding
Birth Success

Warning of DANGER!