




# Marching Bands

In the late 1700's, military bands were used to direct troops' movements on the battlefield. However, things changed and military bands played for ceremonies instead. In the late 1800's, band leader John Phillip Sousa began to take his U. S. Marines Military Band across our country to play concerts for everybody to enjoy. His band played many marching tunes that Sousa had composed. People liked the tunes and musicians began to form marching bands to play Sousa's marches.

Today a marching band is a group of musicians who play instruments while they are walking in a parade or performing during field shows. The brass, woodwinds, and percussion instruments have to be carried or worn while they are played.

A marching band not only plays upbeat musical pieces but its musicians also entertain with steps and movements. They form designs such as logos and letters or even moving pictures. **It takes a lot of discipline and cooperation to create the amazing performances for so many people to enjoy.** 

Grandpa said that he had a special surprise for them to watch his favorite college marching band together. He gave Anita a link to watch the Ohio State University Marching Band's half-time performance at her house while he watched it at his house. He said that the band would make five animated pictures from different movies. They would each pick their favorite to tell about at the end of the performance.

## Watch

You and your family can watch, too.

1. Pay attention to the 5 animated pictures: Superman, Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, Pirates of the Caribbean
2. Which one did you like most? Why?
3. What instruments did you either see or hear during the Marching Band's performance?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7\\_ToAF46GPQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_ToAF46GPQ)

(Pro-tip: Watch in full-screen view)

## March

After watching the marching band, Grandpa and Anita wanted to march themselves! Grandpa found a Sousa march for them to listen to and they marched around their living rooms.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mRn9chmRAY>

You and your family members can make a make-believe marching band. Each member can pick an instrument and pretend to play it as you march in place or around a room or even in a safe place outside.

# Marching Bands

## Look

Here is a drawing of some of the unusual instruments in a marching band.

Why do you think there are no string instruments?

