

GALLERY HUNT Celebrate the Art of Peru—Sounds of Peru!

Music is an important part of Peruvian culture—from daily life to special celebrations and ceremonies. Search through the VMFA Pre-Columbian Art Galleries on Level 2 to discover ceremonial instruments and objects!



Peruvians have been making instruments for thousands of years. One of their traditional instruments is the *zampoña*, also known as a panpipe. The *zampoña* is a wind instrument (meaning the musician blows air into it to make sound) and is made from a variety of materials, including cane, bone, horn, and metal. This figure is playing a *zampoña*. *What hollow, tube-like materials could you use to make your own zampoña?* _____



The ancient Nazca culture of Peru played a variety of instruments during rituals and parades or other processions. Their instruments included ceramic drums, trumpets, and whistles. Whistles were uniquely designed to produce a certain pitch or sound and were often played together by a group of musicians. *Pucker your lips like a fish. Blow air through your lips to whistle. Is your whistle's pitch high or low? Loud or soft?* _____



Worn by ancient Peruvians (specifically the Nazca peoples) during ceremonies with music, this open-sided tunic, called a tabard, is made of cotton and bird feathers. There are nearly two thousand species or types of birds in Peru. Imagine their different sounds. Nature influenced ancient Peruvians—from their clothing to their musical instruments. *Find other Peruvian works of art that include a bird. List at least one (There are lots!):* _____



In many ancient Peruvian cultures, people made musical instruments out of natural objects. Archaeological digs in the Chavin region of Peru have uncovered shell trumpets, or *pututos*, made from a *Strombus*, a shell more commonly known as conch. These spiral-shaped shells create a horn-like sound when blown into. Hold a *Strombus* shell to your ear and you can hear air circulating through it; it sounds like the ocean! *What are some natural objects you could use to make a musical instrument?* _____



Only very important individuals from the Moche culture wore these jaguars—of which only seven others are known to exist in the world. They were probably made by the same artist as part of a large necklace. Within each jaguar is a small pebble that made a rattling sound like a jaguar's growl whenever the wearer moved. *What other sounds in nature might resemble the whooshing, tinkling, or clanking of a rattle?* _____