



THE FIDDLE

The violin or fiddle is believed to have originated in 16th-century Italy. This four-stringed instrument is played with a bow, though it can also be strummed or plucked. People tend to use the term violin when the instrument is used in classical or chamber music, symphonies, or orchestras, while fiddle-playing is associated with Cajun, Irish, bluegrass, folk, old-time, and country music.

Fiddles were the primary musical instruments in southern Appalachia through World War II and were played by several Bristol Sessions artists such as Norman Edmonds, Uncle Eck Dunford, Hattie Stoneman, and J. E. Greene. The fiddle was sometimes referred to as “The Devil’s Box” because many people associated the fiddle with dancing, drinking, and merry-making – activities often viewed as improper!

JOKE:

What’s the difference between a violin and a fiddle? **A violin has strings, and a fiddle has strangs...**

COLOR THE FIDDLE!

HELP DESIGN A FIDDLE!

What is missing on the fiddle's body?
You can look at the fiddle on the first
page to figure it out. Now draw the
missing elements on this fiddle!

The cut-outs you just drew on the fiddle's
body are called f-holes. When the fiddle
is played, the sound made by the bow
or the player's fingers comes out of these
holes. By changing the size, shape, and
length of these holes, the sound made
by the fiddle can also be changed. These
cut-outs are called f-holes because their
shape looks like a fancy letter "f".

The carved decorative piece at the top
of the fiddle is the scroll. Usually the
scroll is a basic curled design, but some
instrument builders create beautiful
scrolls that look like animals, humans, or
other designs. You can create your own
decorative scroll for a fiddle below.

