

# The Scavenger Hunt

Every year, Sophie's troop held a scavenger hunt. The theme this year was to locate an alphabetical list of things related to music. As usual, the troop split into four teams. Each team had one parent and four scouts. Last year, Sophie's team had followed the list in order, starting at the top.

The rules of the game said that if two or more teams had found the same object, it didn't count. Last year, when the theme was math, everyone had collected an **abacus**<sup>1</sup>, beads, and calculators. So to make it more interesting, and to be sure they reached the end of the list, they decided they would start from the bottom--at Z. Then they'd make sure to have things that the other teams had not found. They had just eight hours to collect as many of the 26 items as they could. There wasn't a prize, but it was still fun to compete.

Jill's mom was in charge of the list. "Z!" she shouted. She was a cheerleader type and always like to show her enthusiasm. "Who can think of a Z for music?" Marisa shouted, "**Zither**<sup>2</sup>!" Then Anna said, "My father has a zither." For Y, they finally settled on "yodel" and decided they would simply yodel. X was easy--a **xylophone**<sup>3</sup>. They retrieved one from Jill's little sister's toy box. For W, they found a wind chime and for V they took the violin that Amy played in the school orchestra.

"Would it be cheating if we turned the xylophone upside down for U?" Jill asked. The group agreed that this was a great idea. The rules didn't seem to cover everything. T--a trombone, S--a song sheet and R--a recorder. Their packs were getting heavy.

By lunchtime, they had a picture of a pipe organ (for P and O), a needle from an old record player, a pair of **maracas**<sup>4</sup>, and a **lute**<sup>5</sup>. They had skipped Q, not sure if a quail song would qualify. (Besides, they didn't know where to find a quail.) Just 10 more things to find--and just two hours left. In Amy's attic, they uncovered a kazoo and a jukebox on the cover of an old album. At the library, they borrowed books on Icelandic music and holiday songs. Then the timer went off. It was time to meet the other teams.

---

<sup>1</sup> **abacus**: a device used for counting and math figuring

<sup>2</sup> **zither**: a stringed instrument

<sup>3</sup> **xylophone**: an instrument made of metal or wood strips that produce a tone when hit with a mallet

<sup>4</sup> **maracas**: a rhythm instrument that makes a swishing sound from seeds in a hollow gourd

<sup>5</sup> **lute**: a guitar-like stringed instrument that is played by plucking