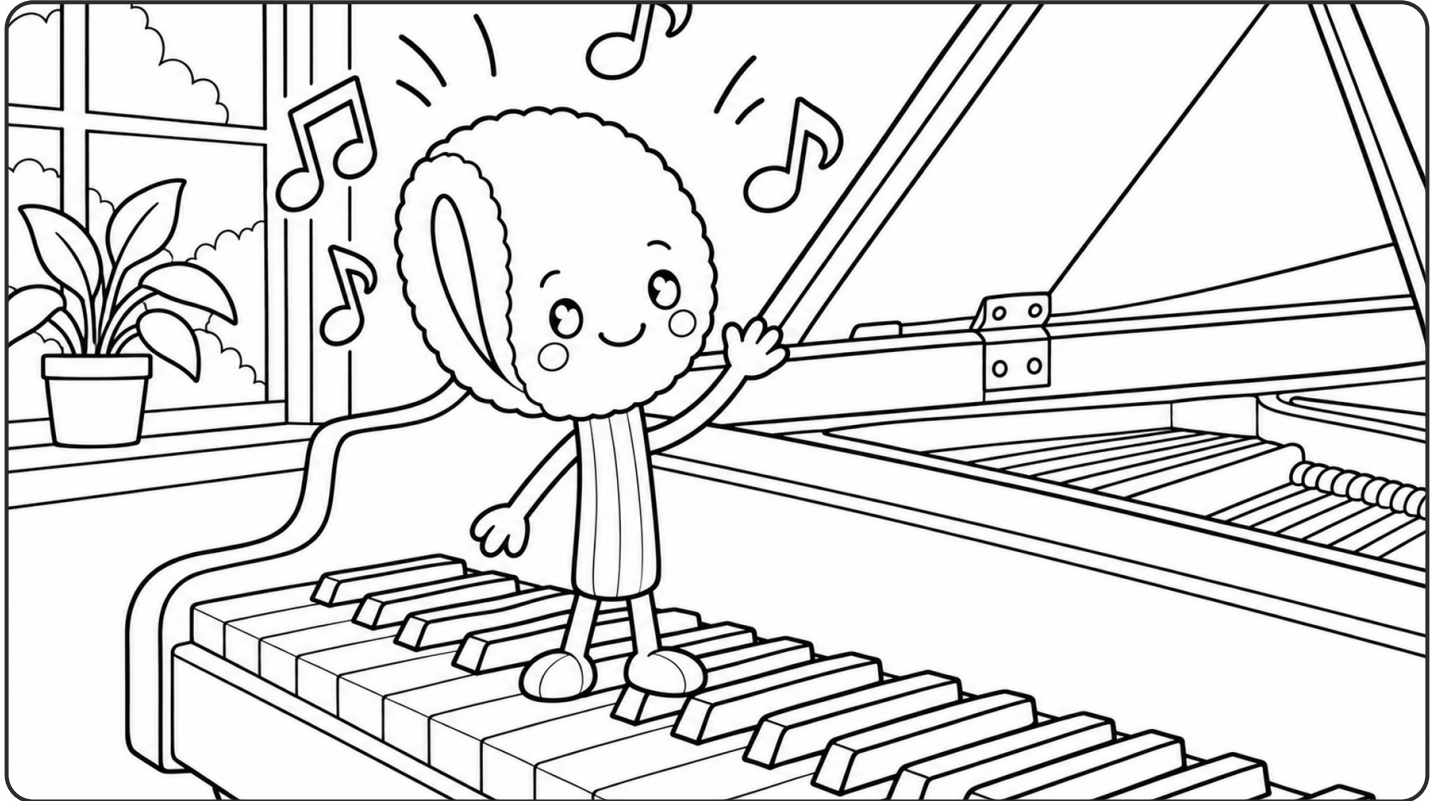


How does a piano work?



When you press a piano key, a beautiful sound comes out. But how does a piano work?



Why?

1. Every key is really a long see-saw.

When your finger pushes one end down, the other end pops up, and it tosses a hammer toward the strings.

2. Bonk! The hammer hits a string, and the string wiggles.

The hammer bounces right back, as quick as a blink. The string wiggles back and forth, hundreds of times every second. This is called vibration. The wiggle pushes the air, and the air carries it to your ears. That is sound!

3. The soundboard makes it loud.

One thin string is very quiet. So the strings rest on a big, thin sheet of wood called the soundboard. The whole board wiggles too, and pushes lots and lots of air. Now the sound can fill the room.

Try it! Make a box hum

You need: an empty box and a rubber band

1. Stretch a rubber band around an empty box.
2. Pluck it. See it wiggle? Hear it hum?
3. Now pull it tighter. Does the note go higher?

What happened? The wiggling band pushes the air, just like a piano string. Pull it tighter, and the note goes higher!

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/piano



scan with a grown-up