



The animals marching band

KIDS
BIG BEN



This is the story of Chip, a mischievous squirrel, a musician, a singer, a troubadour when the mood takes him, and an all-round cheery chap!
[What does Chip have on his head?]
Early in the morning, one summer's day, Chip was in a cheerful mood and set off for a walk in the countryside, singing as he went.
And whistling... Lalalalala...
[Do you know how to whistle?]



All of a sudden, he sees a musical instrument on the ground.

[Do you know what this instrument is?]

A triangle! Chip wonders if he dare take it. There's no one around. So why not?



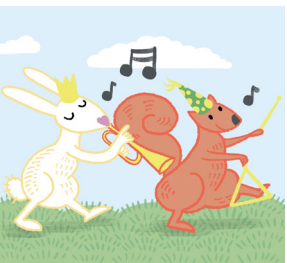
Having picked up the triangle, Chip sets off on his walk again, even happier than when he set out! But now, instead of singing and whistling, he has a musical instrument to play: the triangle! And he plays it with great enthusiasm. Chip thinks his new percussion instrument is super cool.

[Do you know why this instrument is called a triangle?]



Ah! Hi Bob! How are you? Bob is a white rabbit who lives in the meadow next to Chip's. He's an expert on the trumpet. Like Chip, he's a happy chappy who enjoys parties and dressing up.

[Can you tell me what's on Bob's head?]



Chip and Bob decide to walk along together, playing their music as they go. Chip with his triangle and Bob with his trumpet. What a merry scene! Don't they look happy?

[Can you tell me how many musical notes you see?]



Chip & Bob arrive at Ted the Turtle's. Ted is enjoying a delicious lettuce; he licks his lips with delight. To stop himself getting dirty, Ted has tied a dapper striped bib around his neck. Chip points to Ted's cymbals hanging on the wall and suggests that he join them for a musical stroll. Well, well, all this is turning into quite a din!



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And so, our three friends go on their merry way. They play their favourite instruments with glee and make a great deal of noise. *Lalalalala... Ding ding ding Toot toot toot toot...*

[Do you know what a musical score begins with?]



Suddenly, our three friends stop, surprised to find Bill, the cunning fox, asleep with his guitar beside him. Was it just a little nap or a deep sleep? Aha! Our fourth troubadour awakes, much to the delight of Bob, Chip and Ted.



Our three friends tell Bill all about their marching band. It is composed of a brass instrument, the trumpet and percussion instruments, the triangle and the cymbals. So Bill decides to join them with his guitar, a string instrument! *Ding ding ding Toot toot toot toot clash clash clash. Oh my goodness, what a racket!!*



After a few hundred metres of walking, our four friends meet Po, the baby Panda, munching on some bamboo leaves, his favourite food. Po is also a musician. He plays the drum! Chip, Bob, Ted and Bill are extremely excited to see him, and explain that they are putting on the parade of the year. A drum in their group would be perfect! Without a second thought, Po joins the adventure.

[How many notes can you count?]



All of our friends put on their smartest hats to mark the merry occasion. And as they rehearse their various pieces of music, the birds start to arrive. There is **Anna**, the female canary, with her very high-pitched song. She lands daintily on Po's paw. Then there is **Clara**, a beautiful blue-and-yellow feathered tit, and finally, perched on a paper garland is **Jo**, the nightingale with a magnificent melodious song!

[Did you know? The blue tits' song is known as a warble!]



And here are our friends in full rehearsal! They have finally found a well-structured and harmonious rhythm. It's time for them to welcome an audience and perform their first concert as a band **EEZISONG!** I have even heard rumours that they are about to go on tour and dates will soon be announced.

Have you bought your ticket to see the band?

Ding ding ding Toot toot toot toot clash clash clash la la la tweet tweet tweet....

An original story by BIG BEN for the Storyteller Owlly or Owlivia, illustrated by Maud Poulain.