

GROUNDHOG

WARNING WHISTLE

Groundhogs (woodchucks) are rodents and the largest member of the squirrel family, Sciuridae, which includes chipmunks, prairie dogs and the gray squirrel. While they can climb trees, groundhogs prefer to dig under ground, creating tunnels and burrows using their sharp front claws. They are nicknamed “whistle pigs” because of the high-pitched whistling sound they emit to warn of potential danger from predators including raptors, foxes, coyotes, and bobcats.

Let's make a warning whistle like the whistle pig uses!

Materials

- Straw
- Scissors

Instructions

1. If it is a bendy straw, cut off the bendy end.
2. Flatten one end of the straw using your fingers or the back of the scissor.
3. Make two cuts to the end of flattened straw to create a point.
4. Place the pointy end of the straw in your mouth, slightly tighten your lips on the straw below the point and blow.

Do you hear a sound? When air is forced through a straw, it vibrates making a sound.

Cut off about an inch from the open end of the straw. Blow again. Do you hear a difference?

The length of the straw and how much air is inside it, determines the pitch of the sound. The shorter the length of the straw, the higher the pitch. The longer the straw, the lower the pitch.

Try making several different whistles at different pitches.

You can use your whistle to call to your friends!

