1. Chew on one end of the straw to flatten it.

2. Use a scissors to cut the end of the straw into a flat-topped A.

3. Blowing into the cut end of the straw. (Practice, if it doesn’t work the first time.)

4. Different lengths make different pitches. Cut the straw into different lengths.

5. Add another straw to the end to make the whistle longer creating a lower sound. Widen the end of the straw by twirling a pencil in the uncut end and slipping another straw into the first straw. How long can you make your straw?

6. Put the straw through the bottom of a paper cup to amplify the sound.

7. Play songs with your friends.

Explanation: The shorter straw produces a higher sound. The shorter the distance the vibrations travel, the higher the pitch. The short column of air gives the sound a higher frequency and pitch.

J.Tuschl Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach 2002