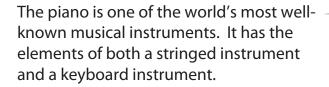
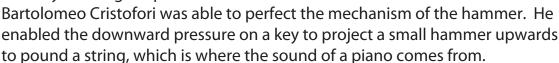
The History of the Piano



The Cristofori piano is the smallest and the very first original piano. In 1694



Sebastian Lengerer created the Viennese piano in 1773, which had very narrow keys. Ferdinand Hofmann improved this design by building it with mahogany, which gave it a lighter, delicate sound. This was the piano that greats like Mozart and Beethoven were known to play.



Over the years, the piano's many flaws were solved by a number of different piano makers. A big breakthrough came with the creation of the "double escapement" mechanism by Sebastien Erard. His Collard & Collard piano allowed notes to be played very quickly,

without having to wait for the key to reset. Additionally, it was noticed that square-shaped or rectangular pianos had poor or limited sound quality. So to solve the problem, piano makers began raising the lids on their square pianos to improve sound quality. This innovation is still seen in grand pianos today. In 1857, the modern Steinway Model D piano was invented, and is very similar to the pianos you see today. It was made from a single piece of maple,

sound and character.

Today's modern pianos have a total of 88 keys and just 3 foot pedals -- one for dampening the sound and two for sustaining the sound.

which helped to give each individual piano a particular

Comprehension:

1. In your own words, how does a piano's sound work?

2. What did the "double escapement" mechanism do?

