

What is a Native American Flute?

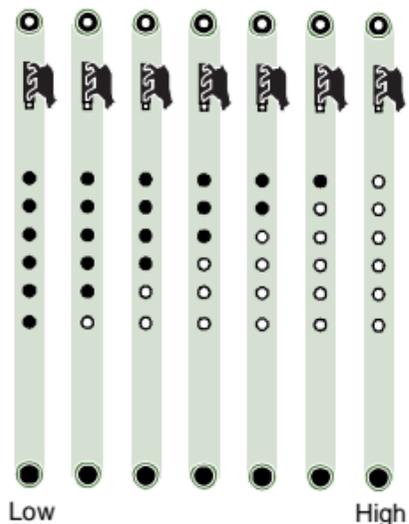
Native American Indians have been making musical instruments for as long as we have been able to speak and walk. Many Native instruments have only one purpose such as the drum; it is said that the drum is the heartbeat of Mother Earth. Looking at it from that perspective, the flute is similar to the presence of Wind and can be as refreshing as a gentle breeze on a warm summer's day.

Native flutes take on many different forms in the Americas. There are whistles made from bone or wood - some small, some large. There are flutes that will play an entire "scale" and some will play only a few notes. In Central America, whistles are made to look and sound like many types of animals or the wind and even chirping birds. Today many flutes are made under the category of "Native American" that are more modern, and some that are very original to their peoples, some are painstakingly made completely by hand while others are made over seas by quick labor forces. Even our Cherokee flutes, as another example are a copy of a copy of a copy. For this reason, always speak to the flute maker about your flute's origin.

Native American Flute



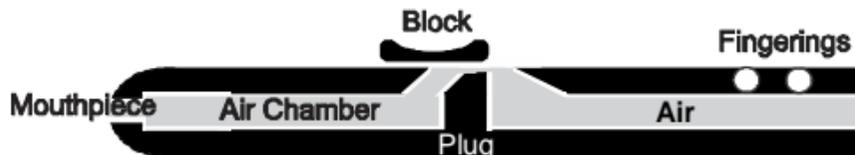
Traditional 6 Hole Fingering Chart



Covered holes are black and un-covered holes are white. As you uncover the holes, leave your fingers off of the previous holes, one at a time until all are uncovered.

For more detailed playing instructions please visit: [youtube.com/bluebeararts](https://www.youtube.com/bluebeararts)

Note:
This chart is specifically made for the traditional 6 hole flute.



General Flute Design

Flute Maintenance

This Native American Flute has a natural finish with mineral oil, that when maintained properly can last a lifetime. The best way to keep its finish and protect the flute from cracking or drying out is to coat it inside and out with baby oil (mineral) or your favorite non-toxic oil such as olive oil.

Troubleshooting

The most common things to happen with your new flute are usually the simplest to repair. The "block" which is tied onto your flute with a piece of leather sometimes slides down or gets a small piece of debris under it and is certainly easy to clean and reposition. You will notice the sound hole showing in front of the block needs to be uncovered and though it is important to tie the block down tight, be careful not to break the leather lace holding it. If for some reason your flute begins to develop a small crack, a very tiny drop of crazy glue will usually stop it in it's tracks permanently.