Soprano Recorder: B, A and G

For soprano (descant) recorder in C. Read three notes, cover their holes, play a tune with your teacher.

1 · THREE NOTES ON THE STAFF

Soprano recorders read treble clef. These are **written** notes in octave 4 (C4 = middle C). Count lines and spaces from the bottom.

B4



Middle line (line 3)

A4



Space 2

G4



Line 2

2 · THREE FINGERINGS, ONE FINGER AT A TIME

Left hand on top. The left thumb covers hole 0 on the back; left fingers 1–3 (index, middle, ring) cover the top three front holes. The right hand goes below (holes 4–7). Solid = covered; empty = open. One circle per numbered hole.

	left thumb (back)	left hand			right hand				
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	front · top to bottom
B4	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	cover 0 + 1
A4	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	cover 0 + 1 + 2
G4	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	cover 0 + 1 + 2 + 3

Going down, add one left-hand finger. B → A adds 2; A → G adds 3. Holes 4–7 stay open. These three fingerings are the same on Baroque (English) and German recorders; the two systems differ on other notes, such as F.

3 · ONE OCTAVE HIGHER

The soprano recorder sounds one octave (12 half steps) above the written note. Same letter name, higher octave.

You read → you hear	**B4** → B5	**A4** → A5	**G4** → G5

A tenor recorder uses the same fingerings and sounds as written (Handout 430).

4 · BREATHE, TONGUE, PLAY

Blow gently, like a whisper. Too much air can make the recorder squeak or jump up high. Start each note with a soft "too" (some teachers say "doo"). Your teacher shows you how much air.

Original tune · 4/4 · quarter note = 60 BPM. Count **1–2–3–4** in every bar. Breathe in the half rests (bars 2, 4, 6 and 8).



Try it

Which holes are covered for all three notes? **Answer: 0 and 1.**

From G, which fingers lift to play B? **Answer: 2 and 3.**

You read G4. Which G do you hear? **Answer: G5, one octave higher.**

Piano at sounding pitch: one octave above the written notes · quarter = 60 · the tune starts after four clicks.
Pitch and rhythm model, not a recorder tone model.
Scan or visit tissimo.co/worksheets/soprano-recorder-first-notes-b-a-g#listen

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