

Jaw Harp

According to the *Webster's Dictionary* (1861) a jaw harp was a musical instrument shaped like a harp. To play, it was placed between the teeth, and a spring was struck by the finger, which gave a sound that was modulated by the breath into a soft melody. They sold for \$.02 to \$.03 cents each.

Jaw harps were among the cargo of the Steamboat Arabia, which sunk in the Missouri River in 1856.

