

Max's Musical Orchestra

Learning objective: To identify and categorise instruments into the four main families: strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion.

Max the monkey is putting together an orchestra! Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of instruments to help him organise his musical group. Use the word bank to help you with your spelling.

Word bank: String · Woodwind · Brass · Percussion · Vibration · Mallet · Bow · Mouthpiece

1. Max has a violin and a cello. Which instrument family do these belong to, and how is the sound produced? (2 marks)

2. Bea the honeybee is playing a flute and a clarinet. Explain what these two instruments have in common regarding how the air moves through them. (2 marks)

3. Zara is playing the drums and the xylophone. Why are these both classified as percussion instruments? (2 marks)

4. Look at this list: Trumpet, Tuba, French Horn. Which family are these in, and what do you have to do with your lips to make a sound on them? (2 marks)

5. If a guitar string costs £5.50 and a new drumstick costs £2.25, how much would Max spend in total to replace one of each? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own imaginary musical instrument! Label which family it belongs to (String, Woodwind, Brass, or Percussion) and explain one way you would play it to change the pitch.



Extension challenge: Research a famous composer from the past. Write down three instruments they might have included in one of their pieces of music and explain why they chose those specific sounds.