

Max's Musical Instrument Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the characteristics of instruments from different musical families (woodwind, brass, percussion, strings, and tuned/untuned).

Choose an instrument that you enjoy listening to or playing. Research how it produces sound and which musical family it belongs to. Use your best descriptive vocabulary to fill in the sections below. Max the monkey is excited to see your musical knowledge!

Word bank: vibration · pitch · timbre · resonance · percussion · woodwind · brass · string · acoustic · amplifier

1. Instrument Name and Family: Identify your chosen instrument and state which family it belongs to (e.g., percussion, strings, woodwind, brass). (2 marks)

2. How it Makes a Sound: Explain the physical action required to make the instrument play (e.g., plucking a string, blowing air, or striking a surface). (3 marks)

3. Changing Pitch: How does a musician make the notes higher or lower on this specific instrument? (3 marks)

4. Describing the Timbre: Use three adjectives to describe the sound quality (e.g., bright, mellow, harsh, deep, metallic). (2 marks)

5. Musical Context: Where would you most likely hear this instrument being played? (e.g., in an orchestra, a jazz band, or a solo performance). (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Max the monkey. If you were to invent a brand new instrument made from recycled materials found in the jungle, what would it look like and how would it sound? Write a short paragraph describing your invention.