

The Musical Orchestra Challenge with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify, classify, and understand the role of various musical instruments within the four main orchestral families.

Join Max the monkey and Zara the zebra on a musical journey! Read the questions carefully and select the best answer. Good luck!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Violin, 5.B, 6.True, 7.Brass, 8.A, 9.False, 10.Percussion. Extension guidance: Pupils should demonstrate understanding that the size and tension of the instrument affect the sound produced.

Word bank: percussion · woodwind · string · brass · orchestra · vibration · conductor · pitch

1. 1. Max is listening to an instrument that uses a bow to create sound. Which family is this? A) Brass B) Woodwind C) String* D) Percussion (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The flute is part of the woodwind family, even though it is made of metal today. (True/False) (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: The tuba produces the highest pitch in the entire orchestra. (True/False) (1 mark)

4. 4. Zara notices an instrument with four strings that is played under the chin. What is it called? (1 mark)

5. 5. Which of these instruments is played by striking or shaking? A) Trumpet B) Tambourine* C) Clarinet D) Cello (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: A conductor stands at the front to help the musicians keep the same tempo. (True/False) (1 mark)

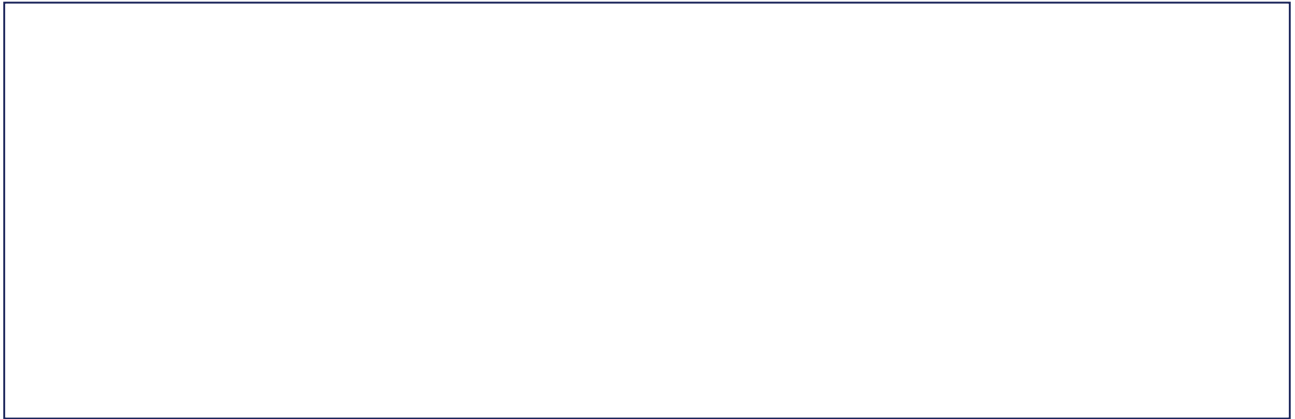
7. 7. The trumpet and the trombone belong to which orchestral family? (1 mark)

8. 8. How is sound created in a clarinet? A) Blowing air across a reed* B) Plucking a string C) Hitting a surface D) Pressing a key (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: All instruments in the string family must be played with a wooden bow. (1 mark)

10. 10. Which family does the timpani drum belong to? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw your own imaginary musical instrument! Label which family it belongs to and explain one way it makes a sound.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a cello makes a deeper, lower sound than a violin. 2. Compare and contrast the methods used to change the pitch of a trumpet versus a guitar. 3. Justify your answer: If you were to add a new instrument to an orchestra, which family would you place it in and why? 4. What might happen if an orchestra had no percussion instruments? 5. Why do you think woodwind instruments have keys or holes along their bodies? 6. Research and describe the role of the 'bridge' on a string instrument; how does it influence the sound's resonance?