

Max the Monkey's Guide to the Orchestra

Get ready to make some noise and join Max's musical band!

- **String instruments create sound when a string is plucked or bowed, causing it to vibrate against the body of the instrument.**
- **Woodwind instruments, like the flute or clarinet, produce music when air is blown across a hole or a thin piece of wood called a reed.**
- **Brass instruments are made of metal and rely on the player buzzing their lips into a mouthpiece to create a powerful, ringing tone.**
- **Percussion instruments make sound when they are struck, shaken, or scraped, providing the heartbeat and rhythm for the music.**
- **The pitch of a note is determined by the size and tension of the instrument; smaller instruments usually produce higher sounds, while larger ones produce lower sounds.**

Did you know? Did you know? In a symphony orchestra, the conductor uses a small wooden stick called a baton to keep all the musicians in time. Without the conductor, the sound would be a total jungle muddle!

Key vocabulary: String · Woodwind · Brass · Percussion · Vibration · Resonance · Pitch · Orchestra