

Max's Musical Orchestra

Learning objective: To identify and classify musical instruments into the four orchestral families: strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of how instruments produce sound to complete the tasks. Refer to the word bank if you need help with spelling.

Max the monkey is organising a jungle concert! He needs to sort the instruments into their correct families so the orchestra can play in harmony. Remember, instruments produce sound through different methods: plucking, blowing, or striking.

Word bank: Strings · Woodwind · Brass · Percussion · Vibration · Bellows · Mallets

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

2. Name two instruments that belong to the brass family. How does the player change the pitch of these instruments? (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between a tuned percussion instrument (like a xylophone) and an untuned percussion instrument (like a snare drum). (2 marks)

4. If a flute and a clarinet are both woodwind instruments, why do they sound different from each other? (2 marks)

5. Max wants to buy a new triangle for his band which costs £8.50. If he pays with a £10 note, how much change should he receive? (1 mark)

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



Extension challenge: Research a 'keyboard' instrument. Write a short paragraph explaining why it is difficult to categorize it into just one of the four main families.