

Max's Musical Instrument Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify, classify, and describe the characteristics of instruments within the four main orchestral families.

Join Max the monkey as he explores the orchestra! Read each question carefully and select the correct answer or provide the requested information. Think about how sound is produced in each instrument.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Strings, 5.Brass, 6.Percussion, 7.Woodwind, 8.True, 9.Vibration, 10.Flute. Greater Depth Guidance: Ensure pupils use precise terminology like 'oscillation' or 'resonance' in their written explanations.

Word bank: Percussion · Woodwind · Strings · Brass · Vibration · Resonance · Pitch · Timbre

1. Which of these instruments belongs to the string family? A) Flute B) Trumpet C) Cello* D) Timpani (1 mark)

2. True or False: The trombone is a member of the brass family. (1 mark)

3. True or False: All percussion instruments are played by striking them with sticks. (1 mark)

4. Which instrument family requires the player to use a bow or their fingers to vibrate metal or nylon wires? (1 mark)

5. Max finds an instrument made of metal with valves. Which family is it likely from? (1 mark)

6. What is the name of the family that includes the xylophone, snare drum, and triangle? (1 mark)

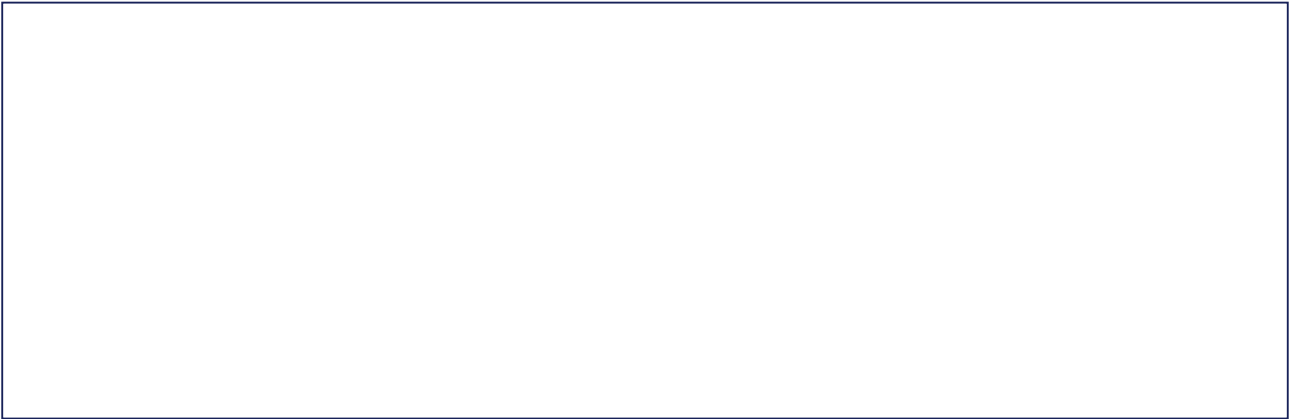
7. If a player blows air across a reed or through a mouthpiece to create sound, which family are they likely playing from? (1 mark)

8. True or False: A clarinet is a woodwind instrument even though it is made of plastic or wood. (1 mark)

9. What is the physical term for the rapid movement that creates sound in an instrument? (1 mark)

10. Name one woodwind instrument that does not use a reed. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw your own imaginary instrument. Label which family it belongs to (Strings, Woodwind, Brass, or Percussion) and explain how the player makes sound with it.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the sound production of a violin and a trumpet. Justify why a piano is often considered both a string and a percussion instrument. What might happen to the pitch of a string instrument if the strings were made thicker or longer? Explain your reasoning.