

Instrument cards

Meet, sort and play 16 orchestra instruments.



ACT 1

NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

LEARNING GOAL

Name orchestra instruments and sort them into families.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can name instruments from a picture.
- ☐ I can sort instruments into four families.
- ☐ I can say how each family is played.

1 Meet and sort the families

ACT 1

16 marks

A family is about how the sound is made, not what the instrument is made of. Cut out your 16 cards (pages 2 and 3) and sort them. Write each name on its family ticket.

Strings

Strings are **bowed** or **plucked**.

4

CARDS

Woodwind

Blown across a hole or through a reed.

4

CARDS

Brass

Buzz your lips into a mouthpiece.

4

CARDS

Percussion

Struck, shaken or scraped.

4

CARDS

2 Fact check

ACT 2

5 marks

- a Sam says: "The flute is made of metal, so it is brass." Is Sam right? Explain.

- b Circle the right answer.

A trombone changes notes with a

valve

slide

reed

An oboe player blows through a

single reed

double reed

A pedal changes the note of the

timpani

cymbals



ENCORE

Put the violin, cello and double bass cards in order of size. Tell a partner which one you think plays the lowest notes, and why.

Strings and woodwind



Cut along the dashed lines. The stub on each card shows its family: Strings or Woodwind.

Violin



small / chin

HOW IT IS PLAYED

Bowed or plucked. Rest it under your chin.

LOOK FOR

f-holes, a curly scroll and a bow.



STRINGS

1

Cello



endpin / seated

HOW IT IS PLAYED

Bowed or plucked. Sit and hold it between your knees.

LOOK FOR

Bigger than a violin. A spike (endpin) rests on the floor.



STRINGS

2

Double bass



largest / low notes

HOW IT IS PLAYED

Bowed or plucked. Stand, or sit on a tall stool.

LOOK FOR

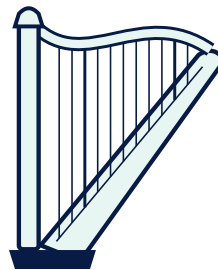
The biggest string instrument, with sloping shoulders.



STRINGS

3

Harp

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Plucked with the fingers of both hands.

LOOK FOR

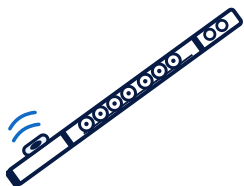
Lots of strings in a big triangle-shaped frame.



STRINGS

4

Flute

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Blow across a hole. Hold it out sideways to the right.

LOOK FOR

Usually made of metal, but still a woodwind!



WOODWIND

5

Clarinet

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Blow through a mouthpiece with one reed.

LOOK FOR

A straight black tube with a bell at the end.



WOODWIND

6

Oboe

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Blow through a double reed: two thin reeds tied together.

LOOK FOR

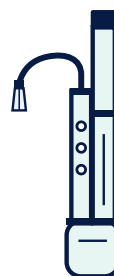
Slimmer than a clarinet, with no mouthpiece.



WOODWIND

7

Bassoon

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Blow through a double reed on a curved metal tube (crook).

LOOK FOR

A long wooden tube folded in two.



WOODWIND

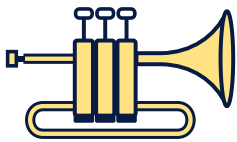
8

Brass and percussion



Cut along the dashed lines. The stub on each card shows its family: Brass or Percussion.

Trumpet

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Buzz your lips into a mouthpiece. Press three valves.

LOOK FOR

Three valves on top and a bell at the front.



BRASS

9

French horn

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Buzz your lips into a mouthpiece. One hand rests in the bell.

LOOK FOR

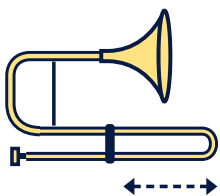
A round, coiled tube with a wide flared bell.



BRASS

10

Trombone

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Buzz your lips. Push and pull the slide to change notes.

LOOK FOR

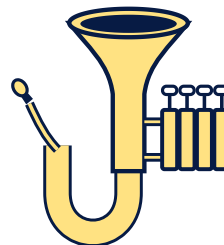
A long U-shaped slide.



BRASS

11

Tuba

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Buzz your lips into a big mouthpiece. Press the valves.

LOOK FOR

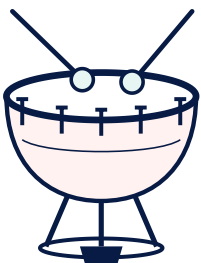
The biggest, lowest brass. Its bell points up.



BRASS

12

Timpani

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Struck with soft sticks. A pedal tunes the drum.

LOOK FOR

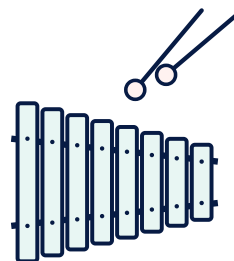
Big kettle drums on stands.



PERCUSSION

13

Xylophone

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Struck with beaters on wooden bars.

LOOK FOR

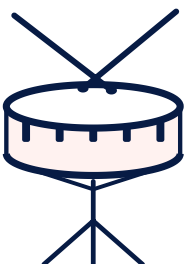
Shorter bars play higher notes.



PERCUSSION

14

Snare drum

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Struck with sticks. Wires under it make it rattle.

LOOK FOR

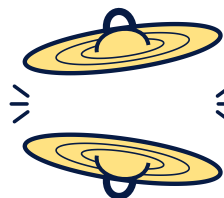
A shallow drum on a stand.



PERCUSSION

15

Cymbals

**HOW IT IS PLAYED**

Crashed together, or struck with a stick.

LOOK FOR

Two round metal plates with handles.



PERCUSSION

16