



INSTRUMENT FAMILIES SCAVENGER HUNT

There are **FOUR** instrument families of the orchestra: brass, percussion, woodwinds, and strings. We **CLASSIFY** these instruments by the way they **SOUND**, how they **LOOK**, and the way they are **PLAYED**.

Anytime we hear a sound, that sound is caused by vibrations. In order for any instrument to make a sound, there must be vibration!

Instruments in the **BRASS** family make vibrations from the players' lips. The lips vibrate through the mouthpiece and then sound comes out! High pitched and low pitched sounds are made by pressing keys, or valves, on the instrument. You can practice vibrating your lips by blowing into the end of a toilet paper or paper towel tube!

Instruments in the **PERCUSSION** family make vibrations in different ways! We classify percussion instruments into three different categories: hit, shake, and scrape. The way we play the instrument depends on the way the instrument vibrates! For example, if we hit a drum, the drum head vibrates. You can practice hitting, shaking, and scraping different objects to see what category of percussion instruments they should be in.

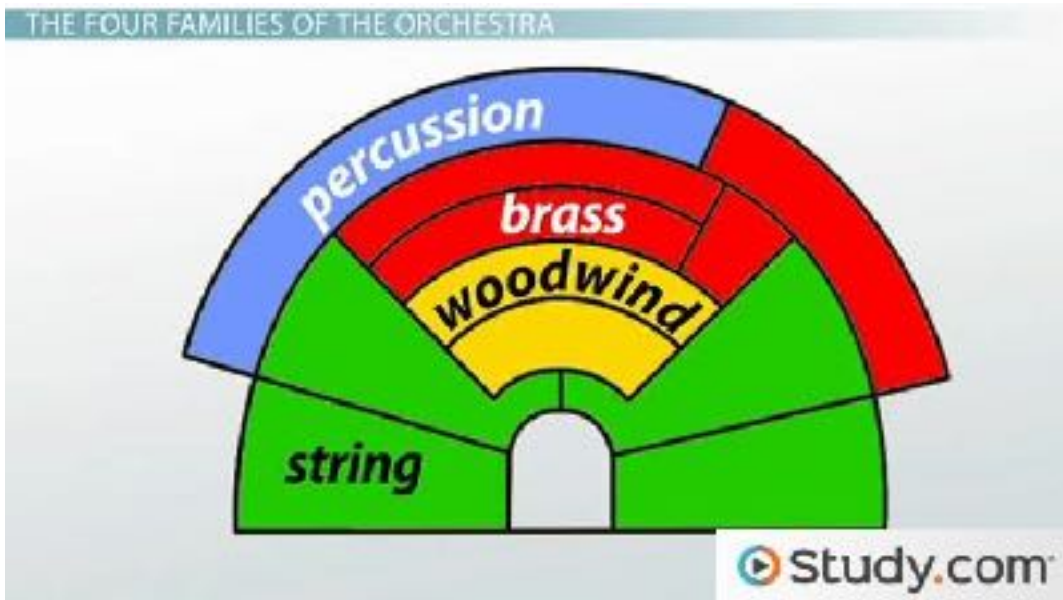
Instruments in the **WOODWINDS** family make vibrations through a reed. A reed is a little piece of wood that's attached to the mouthpiece. Once the player blows through the mouthpiece, the reed vibrates and then, you guessed it! The sound comes out! The flute is actually a part of the woodwinds family, even though it doesn't have a reed. You can practice a way to play the flute by blowing across the top of a bottle.

Instruments in the **STRINGS** family make vibrations through the strings. The player either plucks or strums the stringed instrument, like a guitar, or use a bow to slide across the strings to make them vibrate, like a violin! The bow must have a special substance on it called rosin. Rosin helps create friction between the bow and the strings, causing vibration! Without the friction, the strings can't vibrate! You can





practice vibrating strings by using a rubber band. See what happens if you stretch it out!



Now that you know a little bit about classifying instruments into their families, your job is to look around your house OR nature to find different objects that can be placed into different instrument families! You must find at least ONE per family AND describe how you played it and why you placed it in the instrument family you chose. **BONUS ROUND:** See if you can find 3 different objects that can fit into the 3 different categories of the percussion family: hit, shake, and scrape!

BRASS _____

PERCUSSION _____

WOODWINDS _____





STRINGS

DESIGN YOUR OWN INSTRUMENT

Your job now is to design your own instrument! Name it, draw it in the box, and then answer the questions below.





The name of my instrument is _____.

It is in the _____ family.

You play this instrument by

