MUSIC THEORY · INSTRUMENT FAMILIES · GRADES 2–4

How Instruments Make Sound

Every sound starts with something that vibrates. Match each family to how it makes sound, then answer the questions.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Match each family to the way it makes sound.

Strings ●	● Your lips buzz into a metal mouthpiece.
Woodwinds ●	● A string shakes when you pluck it or pull a bow across it.
Brass ●	● You hit it, shake it or scrape it.
Percussion ●	● Air shakes when you blow across a hole or past a thin reed.

Circle the right answer.

A violin player pulls this across the strings. **a bow** **a reed**

A clarinet player blows past this thin piece of cane. **a slide** **a reed**

A trombone player changes notes by moving this. **a slide** **a bow**

Which one is a percussion instrument? **a flute** **a tambourine**

A short string makes a sound that is **higher** **lower**

A big, long tube makes a sound that is **higher** **lower**

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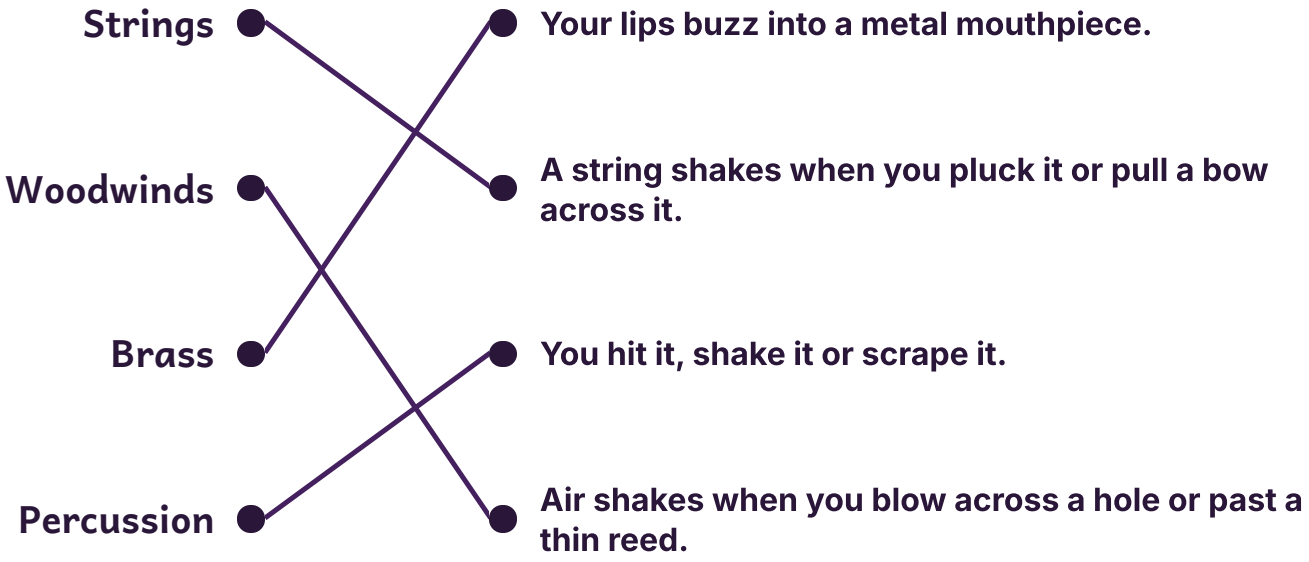
ANSWER KEY · INSTRUMENT FAMILIES · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: How Instruments Make Sound

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write or draw their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Match each family to the way it makes sound.



Circle the right answer.

A violin player pulls this across the strings. **a bow** / a reed

A clarinet player blows past this thin piece of cane. a slide / **a reed**

A trombone player changes notes by moving this. **a slide** / a bow

Which one is a percussion instrument? a flute / **a tambourine**

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