

Instruments of the Orchestra



Year 5

Spring 1

What should I already know?

- Instruments can be played in different ways
- There are different 'families' of instruments according to the way the sound is made
- An orchestra is a group of instruments playing together
- A conductor shows the orchestra how to perform and keeps them in time

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- What the different sections of the orchestra are
- How each instrument is played
- How high sounds and low sounds are made on a variety of instruments
- What an orchestra sounds like
- Where the players sit in an orchestra and why
- Some famous music played by an orchestra ('Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra', 'Flight of the Bumble Bee')

Vocabulary

conductor	the person who beats time and directs the orchestra how to play
leader	the lead first violin - they are in charge if there is no conductor
string section	instruments with strings that are bowed, strummed or plucked
woodwind section	instruments that are blown so the instrument makes the air vibrate - often with one or two reeds
brass section	instruments that are blown so the player's lips 'buzz' to make the air vibrate
percussion section	instruments that are hit or shaken to make a sound
reed	a small piece of thin wood in the mouthpiece of a wind instrument
bow	a stick with horsehair attached - used to make strings vibrate when the bow is stroked across them
pluck	to make the strings vibrate with your fingers
timbre	the individual sound quality of each instrument



1. Can you find out:

a) when the piano was invented?

b) when the saxophone was invented?

2. Unjumble these names of famous orchestral composers:

a) C H A B = _____

b) Z O M R A T = _____

c) L I D I V A V = _____

d) H O B E V E T E N = _____

e) S I T A N N E A S S = _____

Draw your favourite orchestral instrument here and say why you like it/why you would like to play it.