

MUSIC · GRADES 2–3

Instrument Families

The four sections of an orchestra

Four instrument families

Family	How sound is made	Three examples
Strings	Strings vibrate when bowed or plucked	Violin, cello, double bass
Woodwind	Player blows air across or through a reed	Flute, clarinet, oboe
Brass	Player buzzes lips into a metal mouthpiece	Trumpet, trombone, French horn
Percussion	Hit, shaken or scraped	Drum, cymbal, xylophone

Quick check

1. Which family does a guitar belong to?
2. Which family is a SAXOPHONE in? (Surprise — listen carefully.)
3. What's the difference between woodwind and brass?
4. Which family is the oldest, do you think? Why?

