

**Objective** sight words (device, signal, religious ceremony, composed, performed, melody, historians, classify, range of music); concepts (classification and types of musical instruments, culture, civilization, ritual, entertainment, non-durable, organology)



| Vocabulary         |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| device             | melody         |
| signal             | historians     |
| religious ceremony | classify       |
| composed           | range of music |
| performed          |                |

## Musical Instruments to Play

By: Sue Peterson

A musical instrument is a device created to make musical sounds. Anything that makes a sound can be used as a musical instrument.

The history of musical instruments goes back to the beginning of culture. People first used instruments as ritual: a hunter might use a trumpet to signal a successful hunt; a drum might be used in a religious ceremony.

Cultures later composed and performed a set of sounds called a melody for entertainment. Musical instruments were needed. Some historians report that the earliest musical instrument was a simple flute. Many of the earliest musical instruments were made from animal skins, bone, wood, and other non-durable materials.

Musical instruments were developed separately in the different countries and regions of the world, but when civilizations shared information amongst themselves, the development of instruments spread. For example, cultures of North America, South America, and Central America used similar instruments and shared these ideas of making instruments that were alike in some way.

Many different ways have been used to classify instruments over the years. One way to classify instruments is to put them in groups by the range of music the instruments can play. Another classification is to put them together by what they are made out of. However, the most common method of grouping instruments is by how they

produce sounds. The academic study of musical instruments is called organology.

Woodwinds and brass (sometimes called the “wind” instruments), string, percussion, electric, and keyboard are types of instruments grouped according to how they are made and the range of music and sounds they play.

Woodwind and brass instruments include the trumpet, clarinet, flute, oboe, trombone, tuba, and harmonica.

Stringed instruments include the banjo, guitar, harp, violin, and viola. Percussion instruments include the cymbal, chime, timpani, drum, and tambourine. Electronic instruments are the keyboard and the synthesizer.

Keyboard instruments include the accordion, organ, and piano.

Maybe you will play an instrument someday. Will it be a woodwind or brass, stringed, percussion, electronic or a keyboard instrument?

## Practice

### Language Work

A. Write the words.

composed \_\_\_\_\_

performed \_\_\_\_\_

historians \_\_\_\_\_

range of music \_\_\_\_\_

religious ceremony \_\_\_\_\_

B. Use each word in a sentence. Underline the word used.

device \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

signal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

melody \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

classify \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Matching. Draw a line to connect which musical instruments belong to the categories listed in the story.

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. woodwind and brass | a) banjo, guitar, harp      |
| 2. stringed           | b) trumpet, clarinet, flute |
| 3. percussion         | c) keyboard, synthesizer    |
| 4. keyboard           | d) accordion, organ, piano  |
| 5. electronic         | e) cymbal, chime, drum      |

D. Phonics work. The word “electronic” in the story ends in the letters “ic” that make a short “i” sound followed by a “k” sound. Write another word that has the “ic” letters to make the “ik” sound (a short i followed by the k sound).

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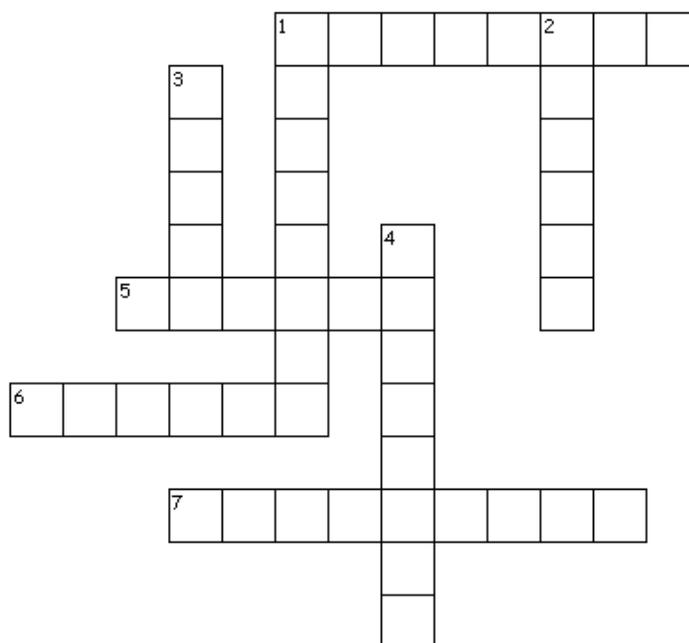
The letter “y” in the word “history” is changed to “i” when adding the suffix “an”, which means “of”. So a “historian” is someone “of history”, an “Italian” is someone “of Italy”, etc. Write another word that has the “an” suffix. Write what the word means.

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E. Crossword. Use these words to solve the musical clues: device, signal, ceremony, composed, performed, melody, classify, range



Across

1. formed; made up of
5. something invented, devised, fitted
6. sweet music
7. played

Down

1. to group according to some system
2. a sign giving warning or notice
3. the distance between; extent
4. a special act done on special occasions

**Multiple-Choice Questions** (Put an X in front of the correct answer.)

1. The text mentions that musical instruments are made out of all of these materials **except** \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. animal skin  
 b. bone  
 c. rock  
 d. wood
  
2. According to the text, what is the **most common** way of grouping instruments?  
 a. by range of music played  
 b. what they are made out of  
 c. how they look  
 d. how they produce sounds
  
3. According to the text, what was the **earliest** reported instrument?  
 a. a simple piano  
 b. a simple flute  
 c. a simple guitar  
 d. a simple harp

**Definitions** (Write the meaning of each word as it is used in the text.)

1. device

2. signal

3. composed

**Extended Response** (Answer in complete sentences.)

1. How does the text define “musical instrument”?

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2. Explain at least **two** ways early instruments were used.

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3. What did early cultures of people do to foster and encourage music?

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4. If you could play any instrument, what would it be? Why?

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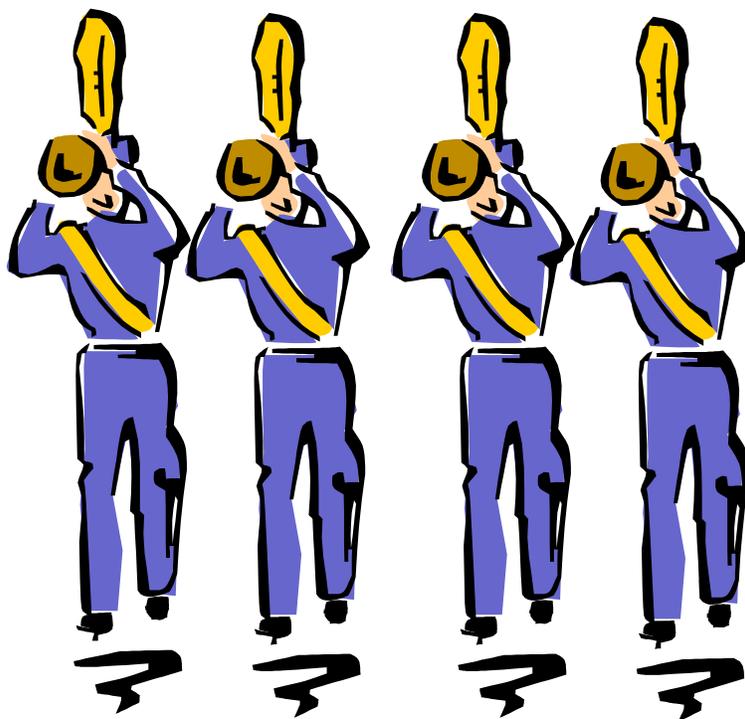
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## Answer Sheet

Answers for Matching, Multiple-Choice Questions, and Extended Response

### Musical Instruments to Play

#### Matching

1(b); 2(a); 3(e); 4(d); 5(c)

#### Crossword Puzzle

Across 1 (composed), 5 (device), 6 (melody), 7 (performed)

Down 1 (classify), 2 (signal), 3 (range), 4 (ceremony)

#### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. c
2. d
3. b

#### Extended Response (Accept reasonable answers.)

1. Anything that produces sound can be used as an instrument.
2. Free expression – See text for examples of the use of early instruments.  
Must have 2 uses.
3. Music was shared and ideas for instruments.
4. Free expression.