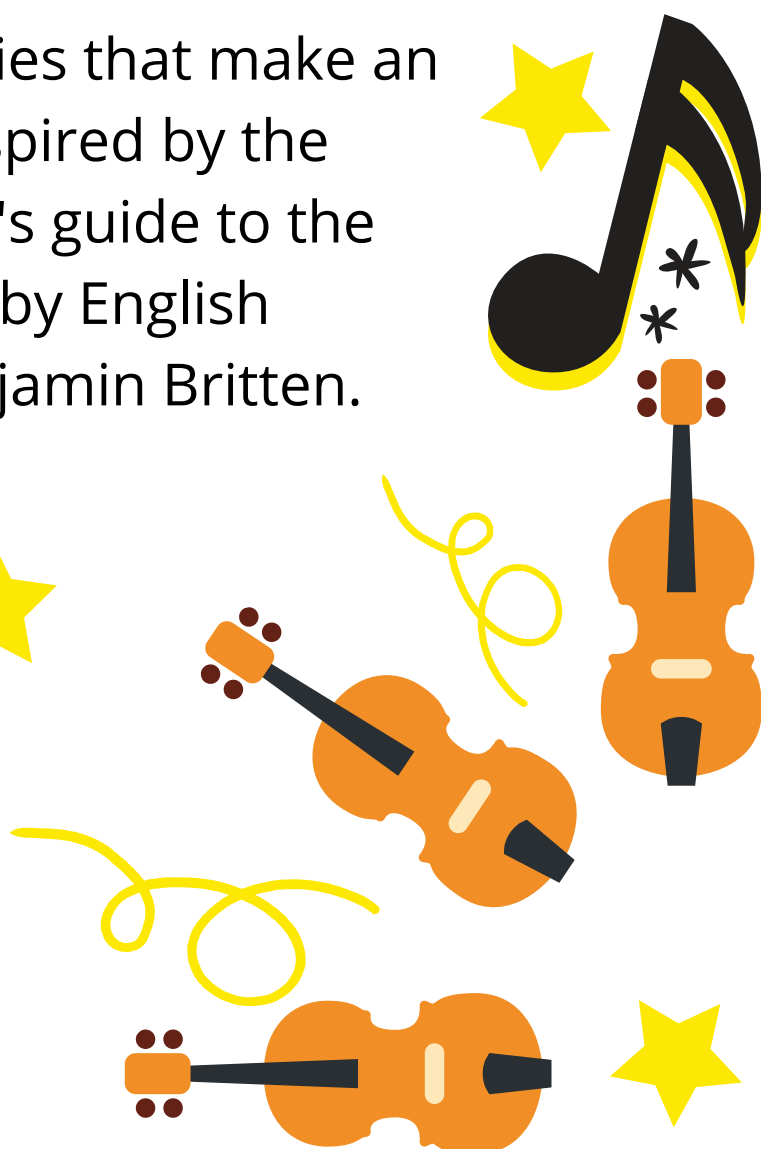




Music

Discover the wonderful world of an orchestra!

Learn about the instruments and instrument families that make an orchestra, inspired by the 'Young person's guide to the orchestra' by English composer, Benjamin Britten.



Instrument families

What makes up a family?

Discuss what connects a family. Who are you related to? What similarities do you all share (features/hobbies/traits).

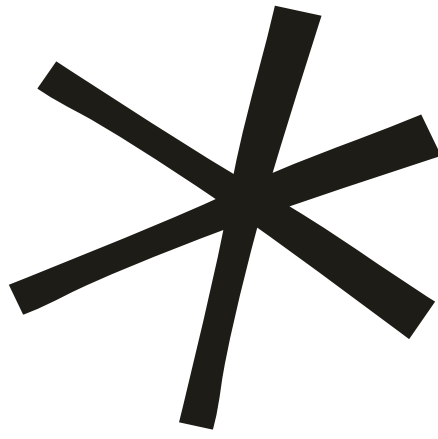
What is an orchestra?

An orchestra is a group of musicians that play together. In an orchestra there are four instrument families.

Can you name any instruments in an orchestra?

A full orchestra has around 100 musicians! How many children are in your class at school?

Family 1: Strings



Can you name
an instrument
that has
strings?

Look at the following page

What similarities can you spot between the different instruments? Look at their shape and colour. What materials are they made from?

These instruments are all different sizes, violins are the smallest, and harps are the biggest.

Violin

Viola

Cello

Double bass

Harp

Violin



Viola



Harp



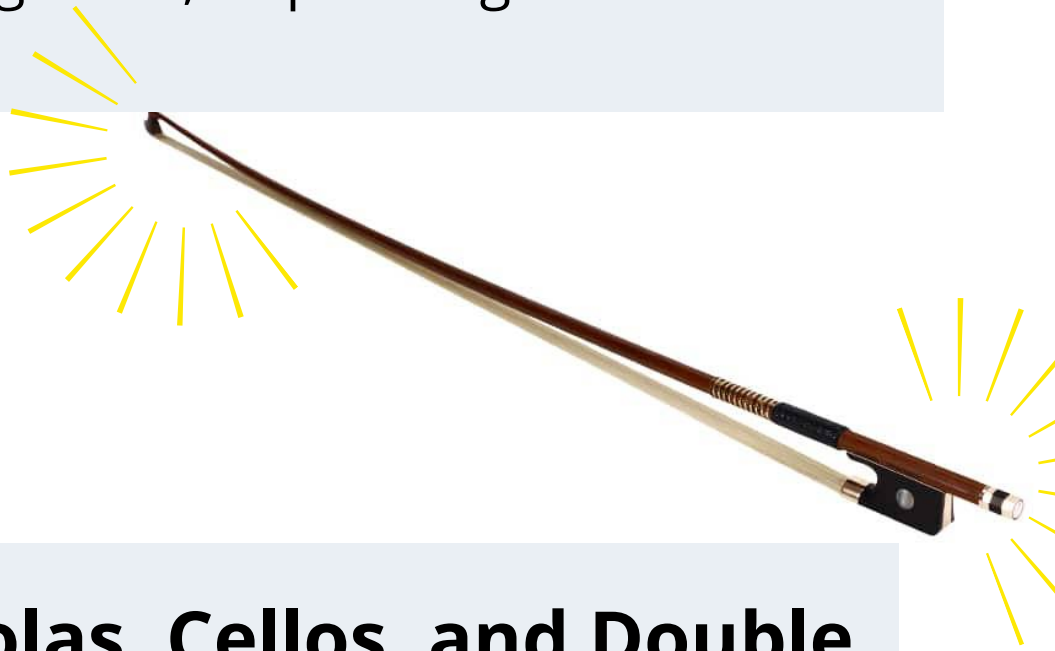
Cello



Double Bass



String instruments make sound when the strings vibrate. Musicians make the strings vibrate by rubbing a bow against them, striking them, or plucking them.



Violins, Violas, Cellos, and Double Basses are all played with a bow

A bow is a special stick of wood and horse hair. When rubbed against a string, it causes the string to vibrate and make a sound.

Mime your string family instruments!

Play your instruments with a bow, from the small violin, to the BIG double bass. Strum your harp with your fingers.

Family 2:

Woodwind

Look at the following page

What similarities can you spot between the different instruments? Look at their shape and colour. What materials are they made from?

How do they make sound?

Woodwind instruments have mouthpieces, small holes that the musician blows into. This causes vibrations, which makes a sound.

Try blowing over the top of a clean bottle, what does it sound like?

Notes are made by pressing keys on the long tube. These cover holes, changing the length that the air must travel when vibrating.

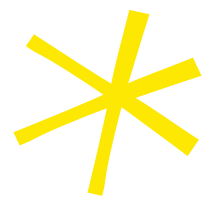
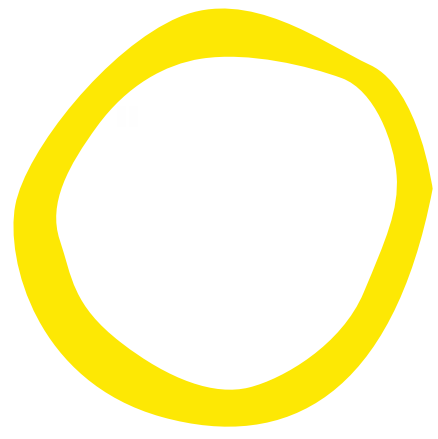
This changes the sound.

Try blowing over the top of a bottle, but this time cover a section of the bottle top with your finger. Does it sound different?



Oboe

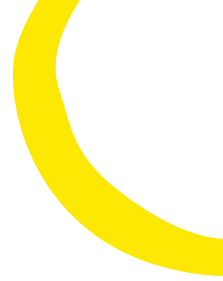
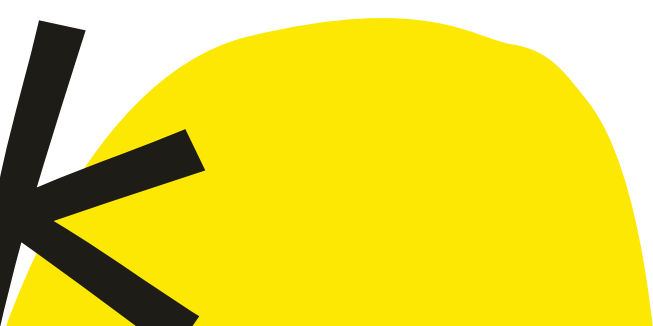
Flute



Clarinet



Bassoon

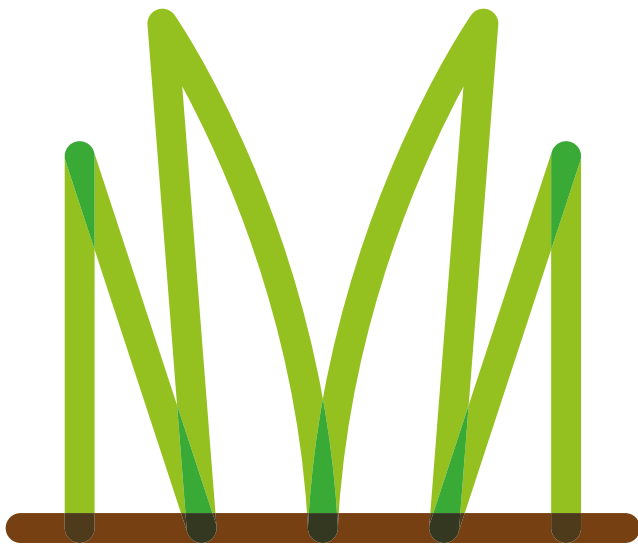


There are two types of woodwind instruments: flutes and reeds.

The flute family of instruments make sound when air is blown across an edge, splitting the air and causing vibrations, just like the bottle experiment we tried earlier.



Reed instruments have a reed, a thin strip of wood attached to the mouth piece of the instrument. When air travels across the reed, it vibrates and makes a sound.



Try making a grass reed!

Pick a wide blade of grass. Cup your hands together with your thumbs facing you. Hold the grass between your thumbs, pulling it taut. Your thumbs should touch at the top and bottom, leaving an opening in the middle. Blow into the opening. The grass should vibrate, making a funny noise.

Family 3:

Brass

Can you name a brass instrument?

Look at the following page

What similarities can you spot between the different instruments? Look at their shape and colour. What materials are they made from?

Brass instruments are known for being **loud!** They are metal, made from...you guessed it, brass!

Horns have been used throughout history for signals and fanfares thanks to their loud noise!

Their sound is made by the musician blowing into the mouthpiece. The vibrations that cause the sounds are made by the musician's lips, and the noise is amplified by the shape of the instrument.



Tuba



French horn



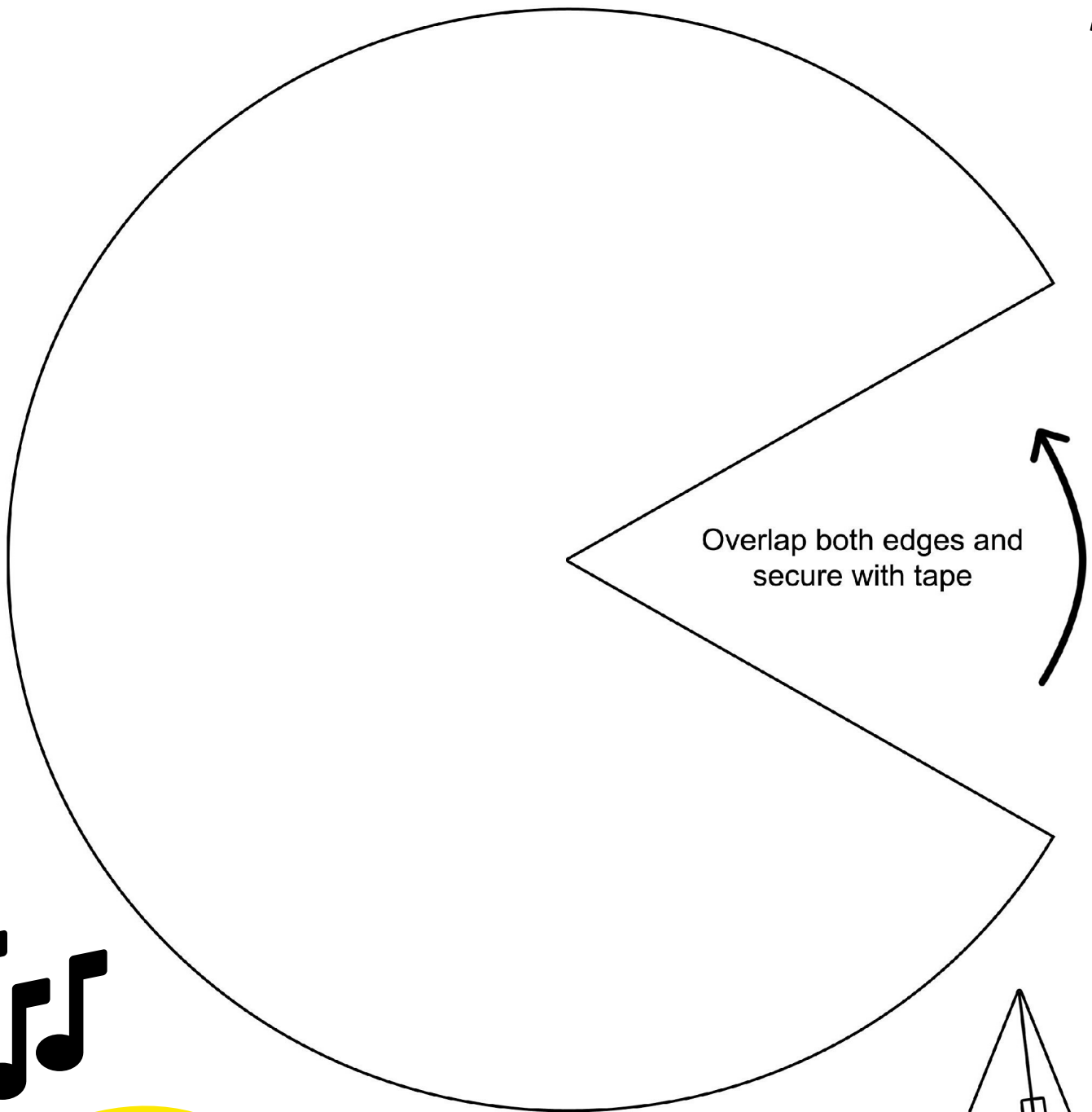
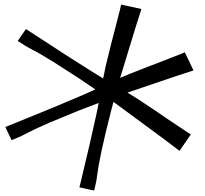
Trombone



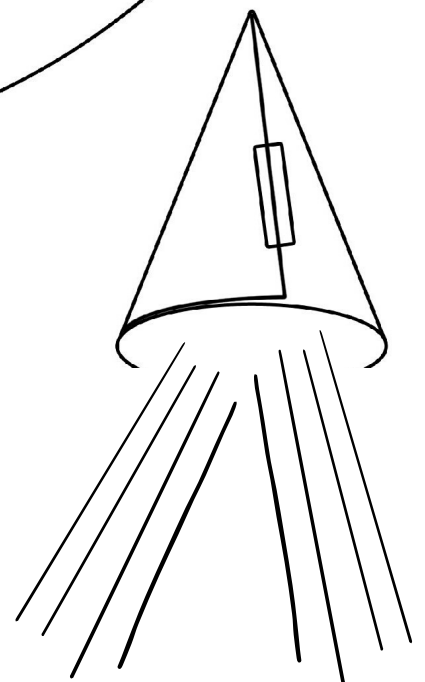
Trumpet



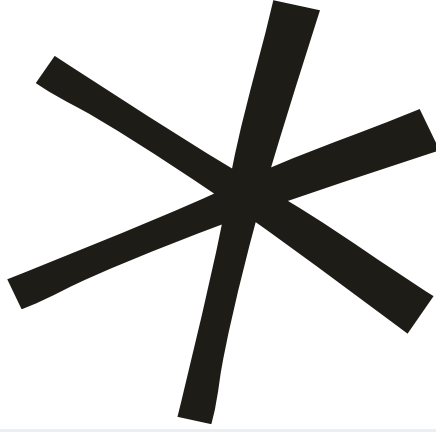
Make your own horn!



Use this template as a guide to make a paper cone. Cut the pointed end off you cone and hum through the hole! Toot toot!

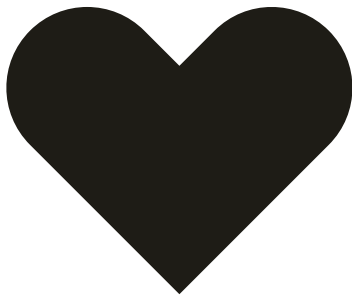


Family 4: Percussion



Bang, crash, shake, rattle, boom!

The percussion family is loud, and helps the orchestra to keep a rhythm, providing a beat.



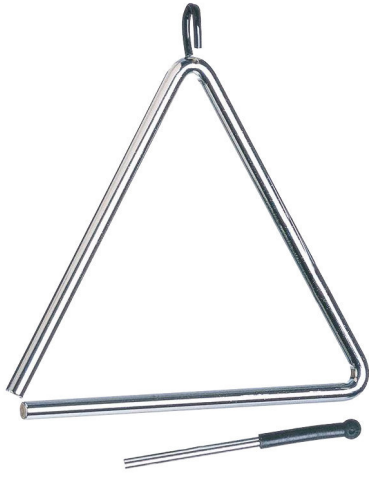
Do you know any instruments that make a beat?

Hold your hand against your chest over your heart. Feel the rhythm as it beats. Use your other hand to tap the rhythm, keeping in time with the heart beat

Look at the following page

What similarities can you spot between the different instruments? Look at their shape and colour. What materials are they made from?

Triangle



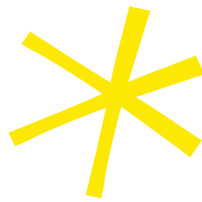
Xylophone



Bass drum



Gong



Tubular bells



Snare drum



Cymbals



Benjamin Britten

Benjamin Britten was a famous English composer, conductor and pianist.

He was born in Suffolk, East Anglia. He started composing music at the age of 5!

In 1945 he composed 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra', a piece of classical music highlighting the different instrument families found in an orchestra.



A **conductor** is a person who leads or directs an orchestra.

They often wave a small stick called a baton in the air to show the rhythm of a piece of music

Play some music, and have a go at being a conductor to your own orchestra-don't forget to bow to your loving audience!

A **composer** is a person who writes music



Watch a performance of, the 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' online.

There are many examples of performances of this piece by full orchestras, such as the link below:

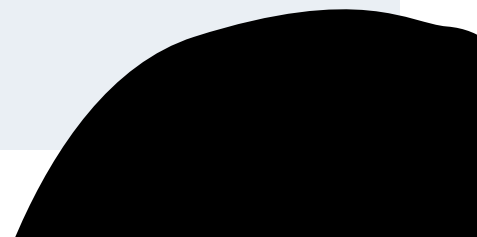
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbVRn3q3fEw>

What instruments can you spot?
Notice how each instrument family sits together.



What does each section of the orchestra sound like?

Use the word bank on the following page and fill in the boxes as you hear each instrument family. Add your own words too!



Word Bank

Soft

Jolly

Happy

Rough

Angry

Smooth

Loud

Sweet

Peaceful

Excited

Sad

Relaxed

Strong

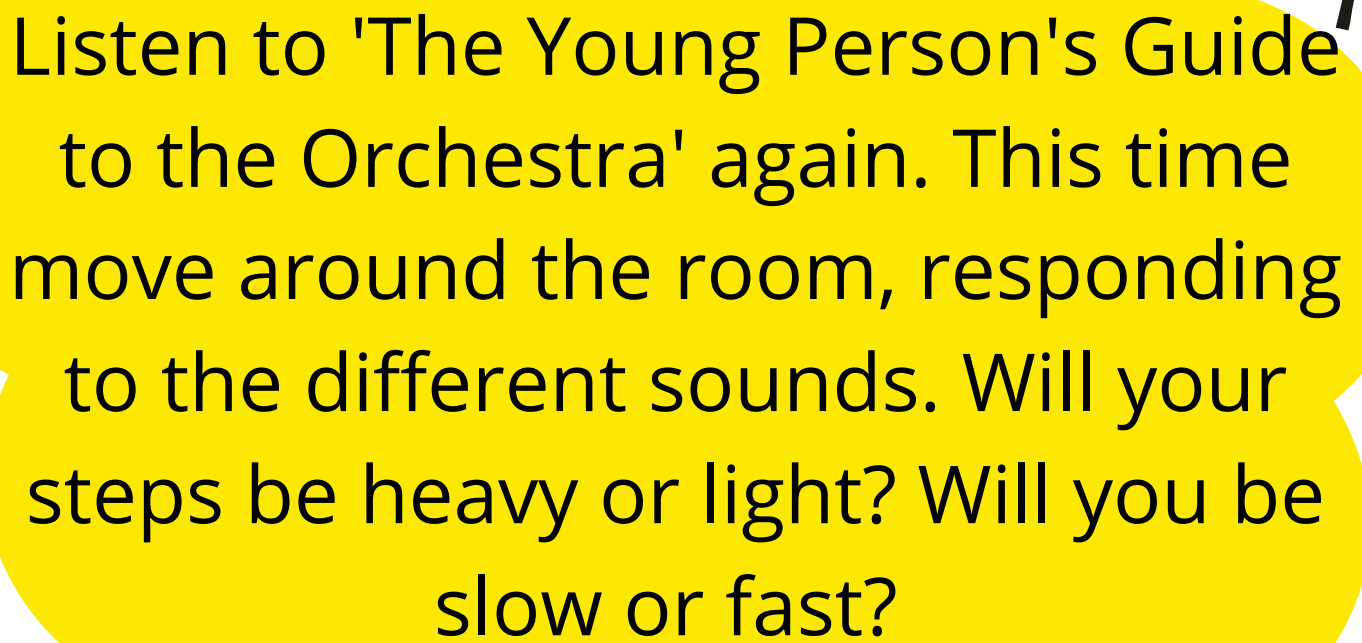
Full Orchestra

Woodwind



Brass

Strings

Percussion



Listen to 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' again. This time move around the room, responding to the different sounds. Will your steps be heavy or light? Will you be slow or fast?



Which is your favourite instrument family and why?