## Mini-Lesson #1

## INTRODUCTION TO THE ORCHESTRA

## **GRADES K-2**



### Music

K-2.GM.R2.A With guidance, demonstrate awareness of music concepts (such as same/different sections of music, musical sounds, or simple musical characteristics in a listening selection).

#### Language

K-2.FL.VA.7b With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

K.SL.CC.2 Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.



## OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to identify the four instrument families, as well as the characteristics of each family.
- Students will be able to recognize instruments from each family by sight and sound.



## MATERIALS

- Orchestra diagram
- 360 degree video of Laura Turner Hall and the Nashville Symphony. Use the arrows for a 360 degree look at the orchestra and the hall! <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/nashvillesymphony</u>
- Let's Go To The Symphony video
- <u>https://www.nashvillesymphony.org/education/resources/at-home-resources/lets-go-to-the-symphony/</u>
- Diagram of the Orchestra worksheet

## **GRADES K-2 CONTINUED**



## PROCEDURE

- 1. Ask students what they know about symphony orchestras. Have they ever heard a symphony? In person? On the radio? How many people play in a symphony? What kind of music do they perform?
- 2. Show students the 360 degree video of Laura Turner Hall and the Nashville Symphony using your cursor to change the perspective during the video. Explain that this is where the Nashville Symphony plays concerts and audiences can see the symphony perform.
- 3. Show students the diagram of the orchestra or the Let's Go To The Symphony video. Do they recognize any of the instruments? What are some of the different ways the instruments are played? How do they think the instruments might produce sound?
- 4. Explain that there are four instrument families in the orchestra: *Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, & Percussion.* Show students the diagram of the orchestra again and see if they can identify the four instrument families.
- 5. Explain to students how each instrument family makes sound:
  - A. <u>Strings:</u> make sound when the strings vibrate. Musicians make the strings vibrate by rubbing a bow against them, striking them, or plucking them.
  - B. <u>Woodwinds</u>: make sound by blowing air against a sharp edge of wood, called a reed, causing the stream of air to vibrate.
  - C. <u>Brass:</u> make sound by blowing air through a piece of metal, called a mouthpiece, causing the musician's lips to vibrate.
  - D. <u>Percussion</u>: make sound by striking, rubbing, or shaking instruments causing them to vibrate.
- 6. If time allows, have students explore the DSO Kids website

(<u>https://www.dallassymphony.org/community-education/dso-kids/</u>). Have students access the instrument descriptions and sound files to explore the different sounds each instrument makes. Guide students in matching the instrument sounds with the correct instrument family.

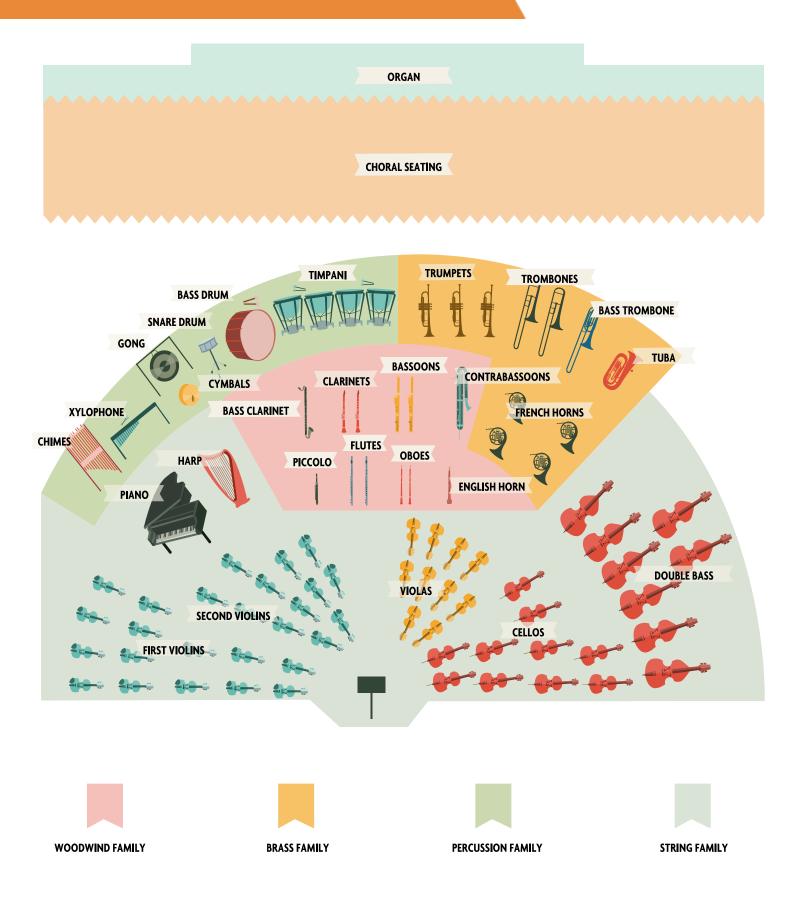
#### ASSESSMENT

Provide students with the "Diagram of the Orchestra" worksheet. Ask students to fill in the blanks at the bottom of the worksheet labeling each family of the orchestra. Students can use the word bank to help them complete the worksheet.

#### MODIFICATION:

If younger students have trouble writing the names of the instrument families, encourage them to draw a line from the name of the instrument family to the correct section in the orchestra diagram.

# ORCHESTRA DIAGRAM



# DIAGRAM OF THE ORCHESTRA WORKSHEET

