

Percussion Instruments



People and cultures all around the world have been making music using all kinds of musical instruments. Percussion instruments are played by some kind of hitting, striking or rattling.

Drums are one kind of percussion instrument.

Drum players in many cultures beat on drums with just their hands. A conga drum is one kind of drum played with the hands. Other kinds of drums are played using some kind of drum stick. The giant tympani drums that sit on a stand add a rumbling sound to an orchestra. Some drum sets come with cymbals. Cymbals are two metal disks that clang together.

The triangle adds a tiny sound. The triangle is a metal instrument that is struck with a little hammer called a beater. Some percussion instruments like maracas or a tambourine are rattled and make sound when they are shaken.

A piano is a percussion instrument because players strike the keys with their fingers. The keys cause hammers inside the piano to strike the metal strings inside that make the sounds.



Name: _____

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. How are percussion instruments played?
 - a. By blowing into them
 - b. By hitting or striking them
 - c. By using a bow

2. What is one kind of drum that is played by hand?
 - a. Tympani
 - b. Drum set
 - c. Conga drum

3. What kind of drum is played with an orchestra?
 - a. Tympani
 - b. Drum set
 - c. Conga drum

4. How many cymbals are played together?
 - a. Two
 - b. Three
 - c. Four

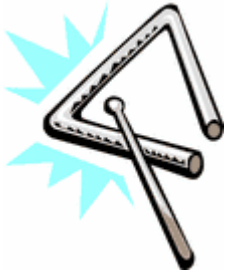
5. What are the strings inside a piano made from?
 - a. Plastic
 - b. Metal
 - c. Wood



Name: _____

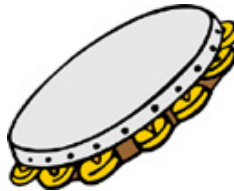
Write the name of each percussion instrument.

Cymbals Drum set Gong Maracas
Piano Tambourine Triangle Tympani



















Answer Key

Multiple choice

1. b.
2. c.
3. a.
4. a.
5. b.

Write the name of each percussion instrument.

Triangle

Piano

Tympani

Tambourine

Cymbals

Gong

Drum set

Maracas

