Vocabulary

FAMILIES OF INSTRUMENTS

Brass Family: A group of musical instruments that make sound by buzzing lips into a mouthpiece.

String Family: A group of musical instruments that make sound by plucking or bowing strings.

Percussion Family: A group of musical instruments that are hit, hammered, beat, or shaken to make sound.

Woodwinds Family: A group of musical instruments that are tube-like and make sound by blowing into a reed.

WAYS TO MAKE SOUND ON AN INSTRUMENT

Bow: (verb) To use a stick which strung with hair to pull across the strings of a string instrument such as a violin or cello.

Hammer: (verb) Hit a string with a padded striker when a note is played on a keyboard instrument.

Pluck: To cause strings on an instrument to vibrate by picking or pulling them with fingers of a pick.

Strum: To play a string instrument by sweeping the thumb or a pick up or down across the strings.

SCIENCE OF SOUND WORDS

Dynamics: Changes in the volume of sounds in a piece of music.

Pitch: Highness or lowness of a sound.

Resonance: A sound or vibration produced in one object that is caused by the sound or vibration produced in another.

Tuning: Setting the strings of an instrument at a particular pitch.

Vibration: Movement back and forth very quickly.

Volume: Loudness or softness of a sound.
Vocabulary

PARTS OF INSTRUMENTS

**Bow**: (noun) A stick strung with horse hair used for playing stringed instruments

**Hammers**: (noun) The padded strikers that hit a string when a note is played on a keyboard instrument

**Mouthpiece**: The part of an instrument put to, between, or over the lips

**Reed**: A thin, flexible strip of wood fastened to the mouthpiece of an instrument and set in vibration by an air current

**Tangent**: A small metal blade that strikes the strings of a clavichord

**Valve**: Device in a brass musical instrument for quickly changing the tube length in order to make a tone lower or higher

KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS

**Keyboard Instrument**: A musical instrument played using a keyboard, a row or set of keys, or levers which are pressed by the fingers

**Clavichord**: An early musical instrument similar to a small piano. When the keys are pressed, small blades of metal called tangents come up and hit the strings

**Harpsichord**: An early stringed keyboard instrument that produces sound or tones by means of plucking strings with quills

**Piano**: A modern keyboard instrument that produces sounds by hammers striking strings. A performer presses keys with their fingers to trigger the hammers

**Reed Organ**: A keyboard wind instrument in which air is blown through reeds by pushing and pumping the foot pedals