

# Unit 6: Instrument Exploration / Families of the Orchestra

Content Area: **Unified Arts**  
Course(s): **Music 3**  
Time Period: **February**  
Length: **Ongoing**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

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Students will use age-appropriate instruments during weekly music classes as a tool to further their knowledge of curriculum concepts. Instruments are an engaging way to solidify steady beat, rhythmic notation, melodic notation, improvisation, composing, active listening, etc. Third grade students will learn how to play the recorder and take it home for weekly practice. In addition, our classroom instrument collection includes a wide variety of miscellaneous pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments. We will explore barred Orff instruments, handbells, boomwhackers, a large variety of drums, and our digital piano. Lastly, we will discover instruments utilizing technology tools such as our classroom iPads.

## Standards

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MU.3-5.1.3A.5.Cr1a	Generate and improvise rhythmic, melodic and harmonic ideas, and simple accompaniment patterns and chord changes. Explain connection to specific purpose and context (e.g., social, cultural, historical).
MU.3-5.1.3A.5.Cr2a	Demonstrate developed musical ideas for improvisations, arrangements or compositions to express intent. Explain connection to purpose and context.
MU.3-5.1.3A.5.Cr3a	Evaluate, refine and document revisions to personal music, applying collaboratively developed criteria, showing improvement over time and explaining rationale for changes.

## Student Learning Objectives

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Students will learn to:

- play with independence and cooperation.
- recognize timbre.
- keep a steady beat.
- perform rhythm.
- perform tempo.
- perform dynamics.
- perform and recognize various forms.
- use correct technique.
- to improve fine and gross motor skills.
- to identify the difference between pitched vs. unpitched instruments.
- differentiate between the four families of instruments: Stringed Instruments, Brass Instruments, Woodwind Instruments. Percussion Instruments.

## Essential Questions

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How can playing classroom instruments make me a more independent and knowledgeable musician?

How do the materials and sizes of instruments change their sound?

What are the correct ways to play each instrument?

## Enduring Understandings

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Students will understand that:

- instruments are tools to further understanding of newly presented musical concepts.
- playing an instrument brings joy and excitement.
- instruments help musicians gain confidence and independence while performing individual parts in an ensemble setting.
- all instruments have specific names, timbre, and characteristics.
- instruments can be pitched or unpitched.

## Application

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to:

- compose.
- read notation.
- improvise.
- keep a steady beat.
- play rhythmic and melodic phrases with accuracy.
- perform both independently and in a group setting.

## Skills

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Students will be skilled at:

- playing with correct technique.
- identifying names of instruments.
- performing written notation.
- creating sound stories.
- performing various forms.
- maintaining a steady beat and tempo.
- matching timbre and dynamics of classmates.
- using active listening skills.
- improvising.
- playing both cooperatively and independently.

