

ACTIVITY | BUILD YOUR OWN BRASS INSTRUMENT



LEARNING GOALS

Students will use knowledge of instrument components to design their own instrument.

STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO

- use illustrations to extend the meaning of a presentation (CACCSS L 5)
- describe key ideas from information presented orally (CACCSS SL 2)
- describe similarities and differences among objects (CACCSS SL 4)
- introduce ideas with supportive detail and examples (CACCSS W 1)



VOCABULARY

bell	The flared end of a woodwind or brass instrument.
mouthpiece	The part of the instrument that you blow air into to make sound.
tube	A long, round object that is empty inside, like a straw, hose, or a drainpipe.



MATERIALS

Student Worksheet



STUDENT WORKSHEET

Included at the end of this activity description



PROCEDURE

As a class, discuss the three main parts that make up brass instruments. Show a picture of the Brass Family (horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba) to remind students visually of the shared components of brass instruments, which are:

Part of instrument

1. Mouthpiece
2. Tube
3. Bell

Students should write these down on their Student Worksheet, left column (Part of instrument).

Review the function of each part:

Mouthpiece: the part of the instrument you blow air into to make sounds. In brass instruments, you make a buzzing sound with your lips into the mouthpiece.

Tube: the long part of the instrument. The mouthpiece attaches to the tube. Air travels through the tube.

Bell: the flared end of the tube. The sound comes out through the bell.

Students will build their own brass instrument using fun objects. Have students brainstorm objects that are similar in shape to the mouthpiece, tube, and bell, and write down their ideas in the column on the right of their Student Worksheet.

Encourage them to get as creative as possible! After a few minutes of brainstorming, have the students volunteer to share ideas they had for each part of the instrument. Here are some possibilities to get them started:

Part of instrument	Ideas
1. Mouthpiece	kazoo, whistle
2. Tube	straw, garden hose, pasta noodle, paper towel roll
3. Bell	ice cream cone, funnel, liquid glue cap, traffic cone

For each part of the instrument, have students pick their favorite object. Now, have students draw their brass instrument using the objects selected. (For instance, ice cream cone + straw + whistle).

To finish out the activity, have the students come up with a name for their newly-created instrument and discuss how they think it will sound.

BUILD A BRASS INSTRUMENT

Write down the three parts of Brass Instruments. If you get stuck, look at a picture of the brass family (horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba) to remind yourself of the three parts that they all share.

Part of instrument

Idea

Draw your brass instrument!