

STUDENT'S WORKSHEETS

FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR LITERACY,
NUMERACY AND SKILLS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

GRADE 8

**TITLE OF CARD: CLASSIFICATION OF MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS
STUDENT'S CARD 4**

**MOE
MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE
2026**

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GRADE 8

STUDENT'S WORKSHEETS

CARD 4

Title of Card: **Classification of Musical Instruments**



Introduction

In this lesson, you will learn about the **classification of musical instruments** and how they are grouped, based on the way they produce sound. This is especially important in **Indian Classical Music**, where each type of instrument has a special job—some create melody, some keep the rhythm, and others provide the drone. Through fun listening, sorting, and picture-matching activities, you will learn to identify the five main families of instruments: **Idiophones, Membranophones, Aerophones, Chordophones,** and **Electrophones**. This will help you understand musical sounds better and appreciate instruments from India and around the world.



ACTIVITY 1

WARM- UP

- Observe the three pictures given below.
- Name any three musical instruments you can identify in each picture.



1.

2.

3.



1.

2.

3.



1.

2.

3.

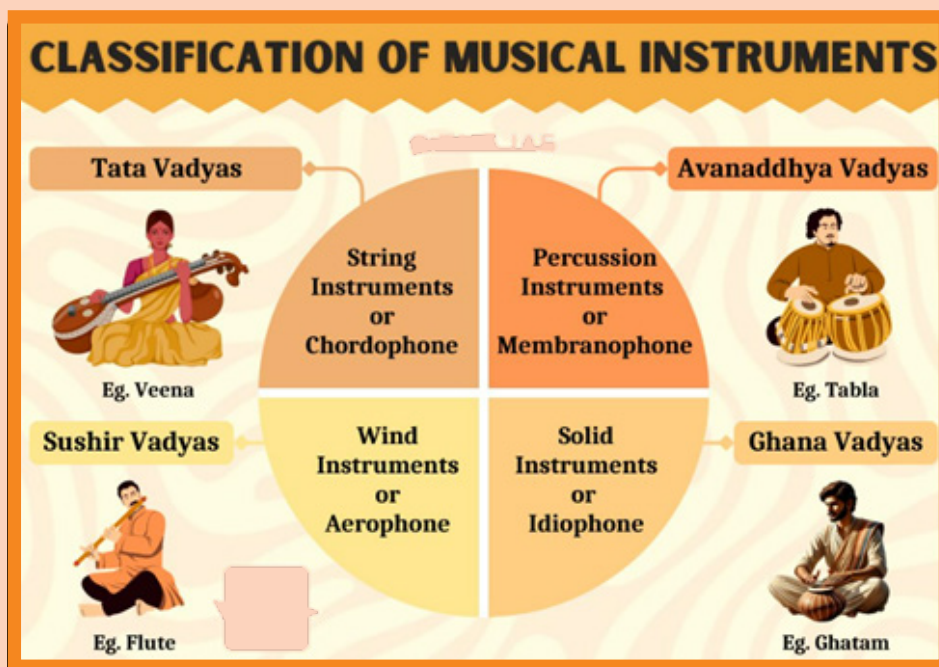


ACTIVITY 2

CLASSIFICATION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

- **Bharata classification system**

According to Bharata's Natyashastra, musical instruments can be classified into 4 categories based on their sound producing mechanism. These are as follows:



- **Hornbostel - Sachs classification system**

The Hornbostel - Sachs system is a method of classifying acoustic musical instruments which was developed in 1914. Western musical instruments can be classified into 5 categories:

- **Chordophones**
- **Aerophones**
- **Membranophones**
- **Idiophones**
- **Electrophones**



ACTIVITY 3

Categories of Musical Instruments



3.1 Tat Vadya/ Chordophones

Tat Vadya are instruments that have one or more strings stretched between two points. They are either plucked, bowed or struck.



From the given list, write down the names of the following chordophones in the spaces provided:

(Santoor, Ukelele, Banjo, Cello, Ektara, Harp)



S _ _ _ _



U _ _ _ _



B _ _ _



C _ _ _



H _ _ _



E _ _ _ _

3.2 Sushir Vadya/Aerophones

Sushir Vadya are instruments that produce sound primarily by causing a column of air to vibrate.



Did you know?



The most ancient and widespread wind instrument is the **bansuri**. The oldest mention is in the *Veda-s*, where it is called *venu*.

Saxophone



Tuba



Horn



Bagpipe



Nadaswaram



Shehnai



Mouth organ



Recorder



Panpipe

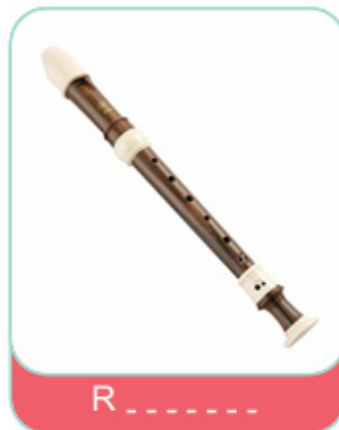


Pungi / Been



From the given list, write down the names of the following aerophones in the spaces provided:

(Recorder, Pan Flute, Saxophone, Bansuri, Mouth Organ, Bagpipe)



3.3 Avanadha Vadya/ Membranophones

Avanadha Vadya are instruments having a vibrating membrane, traditionally an animal skin but often synthetic today, that is stretched over a frame.



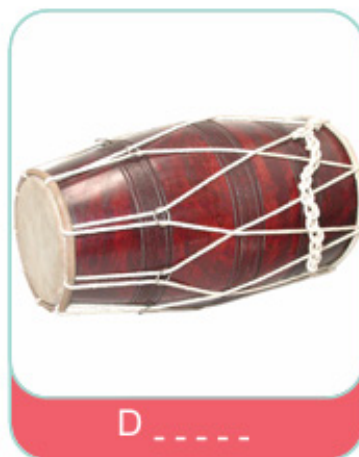
Did you know?



The *nagada*, the war drum, dominated the war music of India throughout its history. Before the battle, the royal priests beat them three times and brandished them over the warriors. They prayed to the drums to defeat the enemy with their roaring voice, spread terror among the enemies and conquer them.

From the given list, write down the names of the following membranophones in the spaces provided:

(Conga, Mridangam, Bongo, Dholak, Djembe, Ravanne)



3.4 Ghana Vadya/ Idiophones

Ghana Vadya are instruments in which the whole body of the instrument vibrates when struck, rubbed or set into motion.

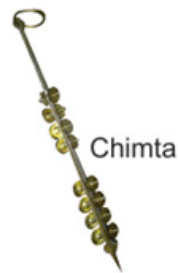
Cymbals



Manjira



Triangle



Chimta

Maracas



Tambourine



Natuvangam



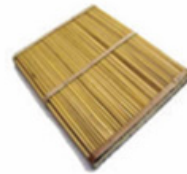
Chimes



Ghungroo



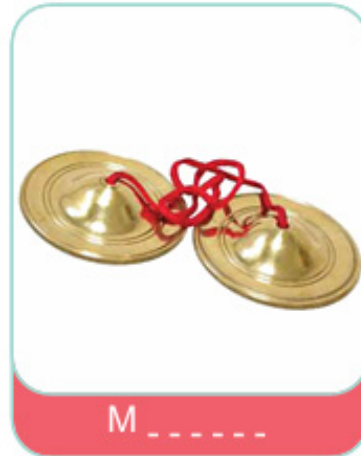
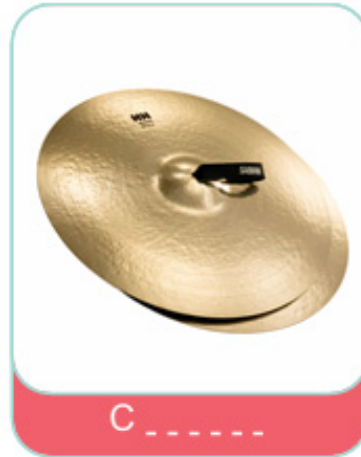
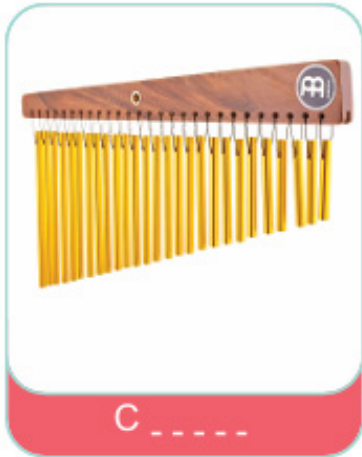
Did you know?



The **maravane**, also known as the Kayambe, is a thin rectangular box made out of shoots of dried sugar cane flowers and filled with dried seeds, which gives the rhythmic sound. It is one of the traditional instruments used in the Mauritian sega.

From the given list, write down the names of the following idiophones in the spaces provided:

(Manjira, Cymbals, Chimes, Triangle, Maracas, Ghatam)



3.5 Electrophones

Musical instruments grouped under the electrophone's category produce sound when the electrical signals produced are converted to sound by the use of mixers, amplifiers and loudspeakers.



ACTIVITY 4

Listening & Sorting Game

- Listen carefully to the audios played by your teacher.
- Identify the musical instrument based on its sound.
- Identify the category of the musical instrument and justify your answer. Why do you think that particular instrument belongs to that category?



Exercise 1:

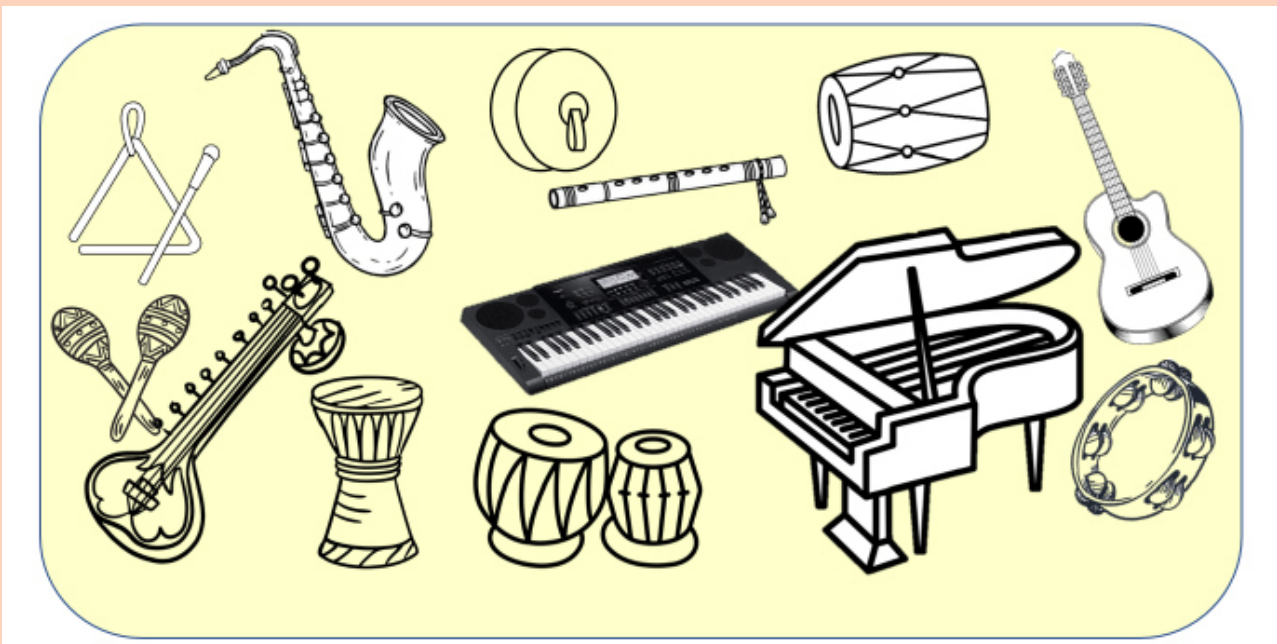
1. Word Search Puzzle

R	A	V	A	T	C	O	B	O	E	L	F
A	R	I	P	E	O	N	A	N	A	F	A
D	H	O	L	W	N	A	S	A	U	B	I
S	U	L	U	S	G	I	S	D	E	K	T
V	O	I	L	I	A	P	T	A	O	Y	I
R	J	N	C	T	R	I	U	S	I	L	S
S	N	K	P	A	K	H	A	W	A	J	A
A	A	L	H	R	P	A	M	A	C	R	R
N	B	A	N	S	U	R	I	R	G	S	A
E	U	M	F	G	U	I	T	A	R	T	N
E	T	U	L	F	D	R	U	M	S	V	G
V	O	N	T	R	I	A	N	G	L	E	I

1. Guitar
2. Nadaswaram
3. Violin
4. Cello
5. Banjo
6. Piano
7. Conga
8. Triangle
9. Drums
10. Dhol
11. Pakhawaj
12. Flute
13. Tuba
14. Harp
15. Sitar
16. Sarangi
17. Duff
18. Bansuri
19. Veena
20. Obeo

Exercise 2:

2. Carefully cut out each instrument and stick it under its correct category in the table below.






<u>IDIOPHONES</u>	<u>MEMBRANOPHONES</u>	<u>CHORDOPHONES</u>	<u>AEROPHONES</u>	<u>ELECTROPHONES</u>



STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

Rate yourself by ticking only one box out of the 3 options provided

Profiling: (Tick Appropriately)			
Lesson 4- Classification of Musical Instruments; MY PROGRESS?			
			
	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
What have i learnt?			
List and describes all five categories clearly and correctly.			
Identifies instruments and categories accurately.			
Places instruments in correct categories.			
Uses technical terms such as “vibration”, “resonance”, “membrane”, “air column” correctly and confidently.			



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