

TEACHER'S GUIDE

**FOUNDATION PROGRAMME FOR LITERACY
NUMERACY AND SKILLS**

VOCAL MUSIC

GRADE 7

TITLE OF CARD :

Classification of Musical Instruments

MOE

MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE

2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Guide to Educators	01
Introduction	02
Purpose of Activity	03
Learning Outcomes	03
Teaching Trajectories / Implementation Guidelines	04
<i>Tat Vadya</i> (Chordophone)	05
<i>Sushir Vadya</i> (Wind Instruments)	06
<i>Avanaddha Vadya</i>	07
<i>Ghana Vadya</i> (Solid Instruments)	08
Teaching Steps	09
Assessment Criteria	10
Assessment Rubric	11
Extension Activity	12

GRADE 7

GUIDE TO EDUCATORS

TITLE OF CARD :

**CLASSIFICATION OF MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS**

Competency

Students identify, classify, and describe musical instruments based on how sound is produced, demonstrating basic understanding of Indian music instruments.

Element

Identify and classify musical instruments based on sound production

Performance Criteria

Level 1: Recognise and name basic musical instruments with guidance

Level 2: Classify instruments correctly into groups with minimal support

Range:

String instruments, wind instruments, percussion instruments, solid and body instruments.

Purpose of Activity

- To help students understand how musical instruments are grouped.
- To build foundational knowledge of Indian musical instruments.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Name the four main groups of musical instruments.
- Identify instruments belonging to each group.
- Classify instruments correctly based on how sound is produced.

Resources & Materials

Teacher may devise their own resources or use:

- Pictures/flashcards of musical instruments
- Charts showing instrument classification
- Real instruments (if available)
- Whiteboard and markers

Teaching Trajectories / Implementation Guidelines



Introduction

What is Classification of Musical Instruments?

Classification of musical instruments means grouping instruments according to how they produce sound. Each instrument creates sound in a different way, such as by vibrating strings, air, or the body of the instrument itself. By classifying instruments, students can understand their structure, playing method, and sound quality. In Indian music, this system helps musicians organise instruments used for melody, rhythm, and accompaniment. Classification also makes learning music easier, as students can compare instruments within the same group and recognise their similarities and differences. This system is used in Hindustani music.

(Adapt as necessary for Carnatic Music)

Types of Classification of Musical Instruments

Indian musical instruments are commonly classified into four main groups:

1. *Tat Vadya* (Chordophone) –

Sound is produced by vibrating strings)

Examples: *Sitar, Veena, Tanpura, Sarod*

(Adapt as necessary for Carnatic Music – *Veena*)

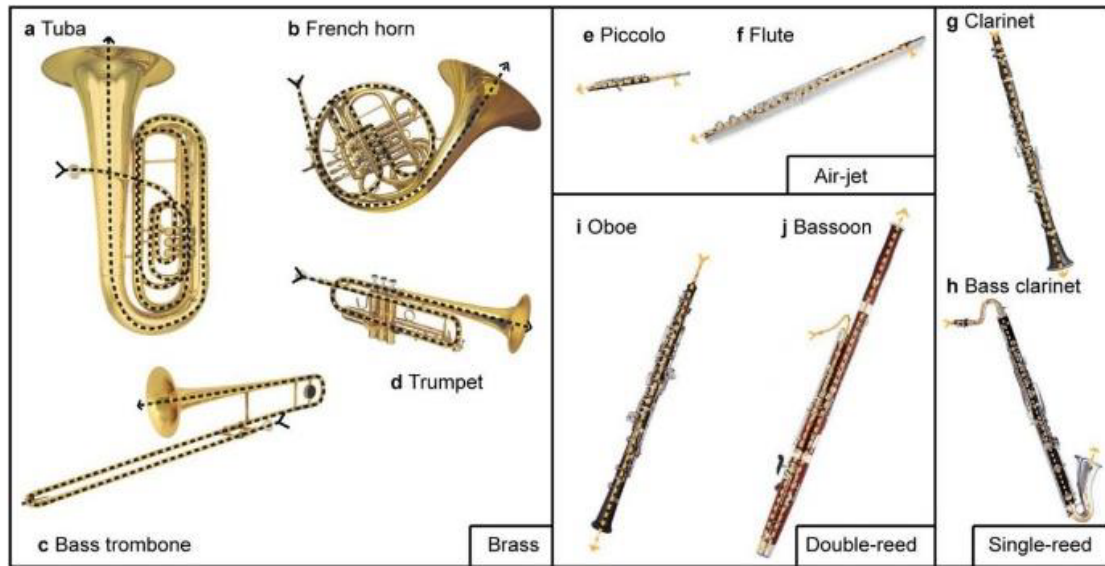


2. Sushir Vadya (Wind Instruments)

(Sound is produced by blowing air)

Examples: *Bansuri, Shehnai, Naadswaram*

(Adapt as necessary for Carnatic Music)



3. *Avanaddha Vadya* (Percussion Instruments with skin)

(Sound is produced by striking a stretched membrane)

Examples: *Tabla*, *Dholak*, *Mridangam*

(Adapt as necessary for *Carnatic Music*)



4. Ghana Vadya (Solid Instruments)

(Sound is produced by striking or shaking the solid body)

Examples: *Manjira, Kartal, Ghatam*

(Adapt as necessary for Carnatic Music)





Teaching Trajectories:

1. Engagement and Prior Knowledge

Begin the lesson by asking students simple questions such as:

- "What musical instruments do you know?"
- "How do we play them – by bowing, striking, or plucking?"

2. Concept Introduction

- a) Explain the meaning of classification of musical instruments.
- b) Introduce the four main groups of instruments one by one, using pictures, charts, or real instruments where available.

3. Guided Demonstration

Play short audio clips or show images of different instruments. For each instrument, students are guided to:

- a) Listen carefully to the sound
- b) Observe how the sound is produced
- c) Identify the correct group

4. Guided Practice

Students work in pairs or small groups. Give the students the instrument names or pictures and ask them to classify the instruments into the four groups. Observe individual understanding and identify learners who need support.

5. Consolidation and Reflection

At the end of the lesson, review the four groups of musical instruments with the students and summarise the main ideas. Ask students to explain how instruments are classified and to give one example for each group. Encourage them to share what they have learned and any difficulties they faced.



Assessment

Formative Assessment

- Oral questioning
- Class participation
- Instrument classification activity



Assessment Criteria

Understanding of Classification

- Identifies instrument groups correctly
- Explains how sound is produced

Application

- Classifies instruments accurately
- Matches instruments to correct group

Participation

- Engages actively in activities
- Responds to questions confidently



Assessment Rubric

Criteria	Basic	Intermediate	Proficient
Knowledge of instrument groups	Names few groups with support	Names most groups correctly	Names all groups accurately
Classification skills	Misclassifies instruments	Classifies with minor errors	Classifies all instruments correctly
Understanding of sound production	Limited understanding	Partial explanation	Clear and accurate explanation
Participation	Limited participation	Participates with encouragement	Actively and confidently participates



Extension Activity

Students watch short videos of Indian musical instruments and list the instruments according to their classification. They may also draw one instrument from each group and label it.



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