Musical Instruments Trivia

Questions 1-4 | Circle one answer

1. Which instrument is usually played with a bow and held under the chin?

A. Tuba
B. Bass drum
C. Violin

2. Which brass instrument changes pitch using a long slide?

A. French horn
B. Trombone
C. Trumpet

3. Which instrument has a keyboard and strings struck by hammers?

A. Cymbal
B. Piano
C. Flute

4. Which woodwind instrument is commonly held sideways while played?

A. Bassoon
B. Oboe
C. Flute

Musical Instruments Trivia

Questions 5-8 | Circle one answer

5. Which instrument uses a single reed and is common in orchestras and jazz?

A. Timpani
B. Harp
C. Clarinet

6. Which large string instrument is usually played seated between the knees?

A. Cello
B. Piccolo
C. Trumpet

7. Which instrument has strings stretched across a triangular frame?

A. Harp
B. Bassoon
C. Snare drum

8. Which percussion instruments are also called kettledrums?

A. Timpani
B. Maracas
C. Castanets

Musical Instruments Trivia

Questions 9-12 | Circle one answer

9. Which small flute sounds higher than the standard orchestral flute?

A. Tuba
B. Double bass
C. Piccolo

10. Which low woodwind instrument has a long folded tube and a double reed?

A. Cymbal
B. Bassoon
C. Violin

11. Which instrument commonly has six strings and is strummed or plucked?

A. Timpani
B. Guitar
C. Oboe

12. Which pair of metal discs can be crashed together?

A. Cymbals
B. Recorders
C. Cellos

Musical Instruments Trivia

Answer guide 1-4 | Keep with host

1. C. Violin

A violin is commonly held between shoulder and chin and played with a bow. It can also be plucked, so bowing is not its only technique.

2. B. Trombone

A trombone's slide changes the effective tube length. This visible feature makes it a useful instrument to recognize even without hearing a musical example.

3. B. Piano

The piano uses hammers to strike strings when keys are pressed. Its mechanism explains why it can be discussed as both a keyboard and a stringed instrument.

4. C. Flute

A modern orchestral flute is held sideways. Despite being commonly made of metal, it belongs to the woodwind family through its musical classification and history.

Musical Instruments Trivia

Answer guide 5-8 | Keep with host

5. C. Clarinet

A clarinet uses a single reed attached to its mouthpiece. This contrasts with double-reed instruments and with flutes, which do not use a reed.

6. A. Cello

The cello rests on an endpin and is commonly played seated. Its size and lower range distinguish it from the violin without requiring musical notation.

7. A. Harp

A harp's strings are arranged within a frame and are plucked. The recognizable shape makes this a visual knowledge question rather than a listening test.

8. A. Timpani

Timpani are pitched kettledrums used in orchestras. Unlike many unpitched percussion instruments, their pitch can be adjusted to suit the music being played.

Musical Instruments Trivia

Answer guide 9-12 | Keep with host

9. C. Piccolo

The piccolo is smaller and sounds higher than the standard flute. Instrument size often relates to range, although the quiz does not treat that as a universal rule.

10. B. Bassoon

The bassoon is a double-reed woodwind with a distinctive folded bore. Its construction permits a long air column without requiring an equally long straight instrument.

11. B. Guitar

A standard guitar commonly has six strings. Other versions exist, so the question uses the familiar standard rather than claiming every guitar has the same number.

12. A. Cymbals

Cymbals are percussion instruments made as metal discs. They can be played in several ways, but crashing a pair together is a familiar orchestral technique.