The STRING FAMILY

1. The images below show instruments which below to the **STRINGS** section/family of the orchestra from the smallest (on the left) to the largest (on the right). Give the correct names of all five instruments below their images.



2. What is the name of the playing device (labelled "A") above which is used to play the first four string instruments?

3. What is the other playing technique called when players use their fingers to 'pluck' the strings of the instrument

4. What part of the player's body rests on the part labelled "B" above?

5. Listen to 5 extracts of music for solo string instruments – one extract matches each of the above instruments. Write down the correct order in which you hear the instruments being played.

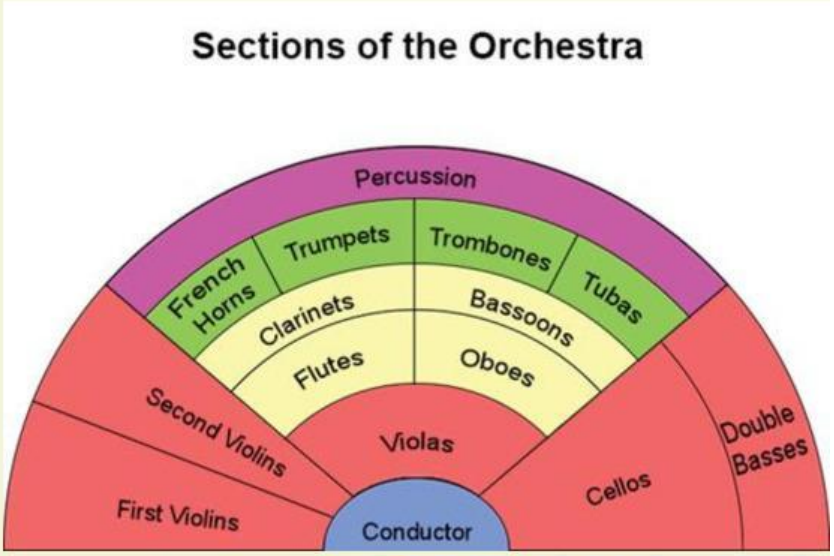
1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



LIVEWORKSHEETS



Violin

The smallest of the string instruments and therefore the highest. It has 4 strings tuned to G D A E

Its music is written in the treble clef 𝄞

In the orchestra, violins are divided into 1st violins & 2nd violins.

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VIOLIN VIOLA

Viola

This is slightly larger than the violin and so is lower in pitch, with a more mellow tone. It has 4 strings tuned to C G D A

Its music is written in the  alto clef

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Cello

The cello (or *violoncello*) is played sitting down and has a spike to support it. It has longer, thicker strings than those of the violin/viola and produces notes which are much lower. Like the Viola, its strings are tuned to C G D A, and because its sound is lower, its music is written in the bass clef 𝄢

LIVEWORKSHEETS



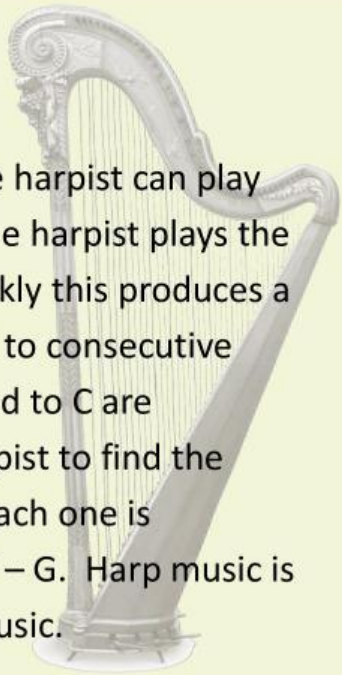
Double bass

The Double bass is the lowest sounding member of the string family. It is around 6 feet high so performers have to stand or sit on a tall stool.

The double bass is often used in jazz and dance bands as well as in the orchestra. It has a very rich deep resonating sound and its strings are tuned to E A D G. Its music is also written in the bass clef. 𝄢

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Harp



The harp has 47 strings. Each string can be plucked individually, or the harpist can play chords of up to ten notes by plucking strings simultaneously. When the harpist plays the strings consecutively in an upwards or downwards direction very quickly this produces a fast, rippling effect which is called **GLISSANDO**. The strings are tuned to consecutive notes corresponding to the white notes of the piano. The strings tuned to C are coloured red and the strings tuned to F are black. This allows the harpist to find the correct strings quickly. A concert harp has seven pedals at the base. Each one is attached to the strings of a different letter name; A – B – C – D – E – F – G. Harp music is usually written on two staves with a treble and bass clef, like piano music.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

String Techniques

ARCO	Playing on the strings with the bow
PIZZICATO	Plucking the strings with fingers
TREMOLANDO	Quickly repeated notes with the bow can be used to dramatic effect or create a sinister mood
DOUBLE STOPPING	Two strings are bowed at the same time
HARMONICS	Fingers are placed lightly at certain points along the string to create a soft, bell-like sound.
COL LEGNO	Bouncing the wooden part of the bow on the strings gives a percussive effect

Name the instrument playing	
Extract	Instrument
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Name the string technique	
Extract	Technique
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

LIVEWORKSHEETS