

Percussion Family



What makes an instrument part of the Percussion Family?
Percussion instruments are instruments that make sound by:

striking (hitting)

scraping

or shaking

Some percussion instruments are pitched (they play notes like a guitar or piano).

Some percussion instruments are non-pitched (they may not have a definite pitch).



Some percussion instruments that are struck:



• Bass drum



• Cajon



• Cymbals



• Djembe



• Janggu



• Marimba



• Piano (because the internal hammers strike the strings)



• Singing bowls



• Snare drum



• Steel drum



• Tabla



• Timpani



• Xylophone

Some percussion instruments that are shaken:



- Maracas

- Shekere



- Tambourine



- Cabasa



Some percussion instruments that are scraped:



- Guiro

- Washboard



Assignment:

Watch:

[How a steel drum is made](#)

[How a cajon is made](#)

[How a marimba is made](#)

*Find something in your house that you (with your parent/guardian's permission) you can make sound with by striking/hitting.

*Find something in your house that you (with your parent/guardian's permission) you can make sound with by shaking.

*Find something in your house that you (with your parent/guardian's permission) you can make sound with by scraping

*What can you do to change the sound of each?

*How does the size of your instrument effect the sound it makes?

When you're done, [click here for your "ticket out the door"](#).

Some optional videos for fun:

- [2-year old djembe player](#)
- [Child playing the janggu](#)
- [3-year old playing the drum set](#)

