Meet the Percussion Instruments

Learning Objective
Students will learn more about instruments in the percussion family by completing a crossword.

Resources and Materials
• Percussion Family Fact Sheets
• Crossword Puzzle

Pre-Assessment
Ask students to share with the class what they know about percussion instruments and how they are played. Ask if they have seen anyone play percussion instruments such as cymbals, drums, or chimes. Explain that today they will discover some of the many instruments in the percussion family, what some of them are made of, and how they produce sound.

Teaching Sequence
1. Review and discuss the definition of percussion.
2. Initiate a conversation about percussion instruments by encouraging students to describe them and tell how they are played.
3. Explain to students that today they will increase their understanding of percussion instruments by solving a crossword puzzle.
4. Distribute Percussion Family Fact Sheets and tell the students that the words they build will be formed from clues at the bottom of the crossword puzzle page.
5. Allow adequate time for students to solve their puzzles.

NOTE: 3rd and 4th grader students may be more successful working in pairs.

Vocabulary
Percussion instruments are made of sonorous material that produce sounds of definite or indefinite pitch when shaken or struck. Sonorous means capable of producing a deep or ringing sound. Pitch is the highness or lowness of a sound.