



## FEATURE

# THE UNPITCHED PERCUSSION FAMILY

*Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 7-9, 11*

### OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work. (*Re7*)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. (*Re8*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. (*Re9*)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding. (*Cn11*)

### MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (Vol.40 No.1)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

### START

Ask your students to read “The Unpitched Percussion Family” on pages 10-13. Then, go over the following highlighted words.

**[This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]**

**TONAL**—relating to the pitch, quality and strength of music

**ACCENT**—an emphasis on a particular note

**FREQUENCY**—the rate at which a vibration occurs

**ISOLATE**—cause to remain alone

**PITCH**—a standard degree of highness or lowness of a note

**HARMONIC**—an overtone accompanying a fundamental tone

**CONFLICT**—clash

**OVERTONE**—a musical tone that is part of a harmonic series

**FUNDAMENTAL**—a central or primary note, tone or frequency

**CRITERION**—a standard by which something may be judged

**TONIC**—the first degree of a scale

**DOMINANT**—the fifth degree of a scale

**SUBDOMINANT**—the fourth degree of a scale

**ELIMINATE**—remove or get rid of

**MUFFLE**—wrap or cover to reduce loudness

**MULTITUDE**—a large number

### DEVELOP

**Using any instruments available in the room, have students identify them as pitched or unpitched. If none are available, use internet images.**

What is one example of something that would categorize an instrument as unpitched?

What are unpitched percussion instruments typically used for?

Is there such thing as unpitched instruments that can be used as pitched instruments? What about the reverse?

How many methods are there of playing percussion instruments? Other than sticks, what tools can you use to play percussion instruments?

### ASSESS

**Did the students read the article?**

**Did they review the vocabulary words?**

**Did they answer the supplemental questions?**