

Brass *Family*



*How do brass instruments
create sound?*



How do brass instruments create sound?

People playing brass instruments have to buzz their lips and blow into their instruments to create sound.



Trumpet

The trumpet is the highest instrument in the brass family. It has three valves, and is the oldest of the brass instruments. A smaller version of the trumpet is called the cornet, and a trumpet with no valves is called a bugle. Trumpets are commonly found in orchestra, concert band, marching band, and jazz band, but can also be found in pop music, rock music, and more!

Watch a video by clicking on the
trumpet!



Horn

The horn is sometimes called the French Horn. It is made out of coiled tubing; some horns have 3 valves while others have 4 valves. Horn players put their hand in the end of the bell, which can help raise or lower the pitch. The first type of horn was a shofar, or ram's horn. Horn players can now be found in orchestra and concert band.

Watch a video by clicking on the
horn!



Trombone

The trombone has a slide which varies the pitch. The word “trombone” comes from an Italian word that means “large trumpet.” The instrument dates back to 1440. Trombones can be found in orchestra, concert band, jazz band, and marching band. If you’ve heard the sound of the teacher in any “Charlie Brown” special, it is the sound of a trombone played with the rubber part of a toilet plunger!

Watch a video by clicking on the
trombone!



Baritone

The baritone is a low-pitched brass instrument. It typically has three valves, and has nine feet of tubing. It is very similar to the euphonium, but is somewhat smaller. Also, euphoniums have a higher likelihood of having four valves than baritones do. The baritone is used in concert band, brass bands, and marching bands.

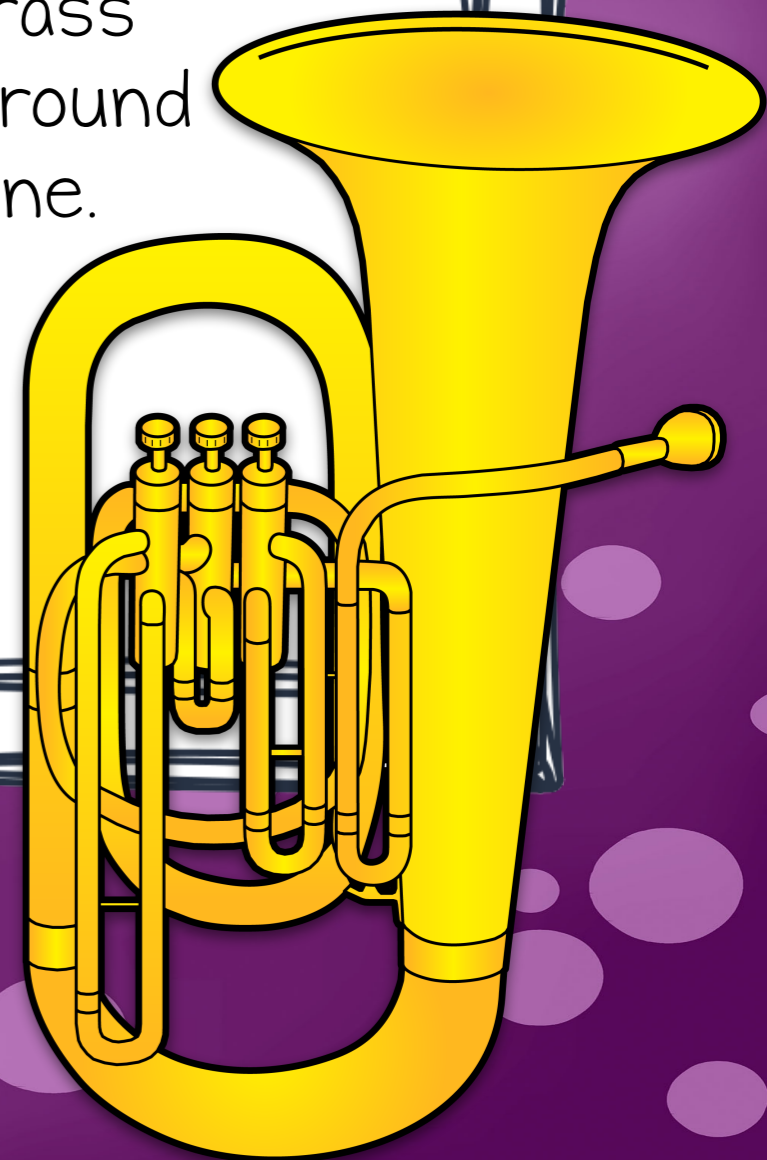
Watch a video by clicking on the
baritone!



Tuba

The tuba is the largest and lowest brass instrument. The first tuba was invented in 1838 and was called a "basstuba"; it had five valves. Today's tubas usually have three–six valves. Tubas are used in orchestra, concert band, and brass band. A tuba used in marching band wraps around the player's body and is called a sousaphone.

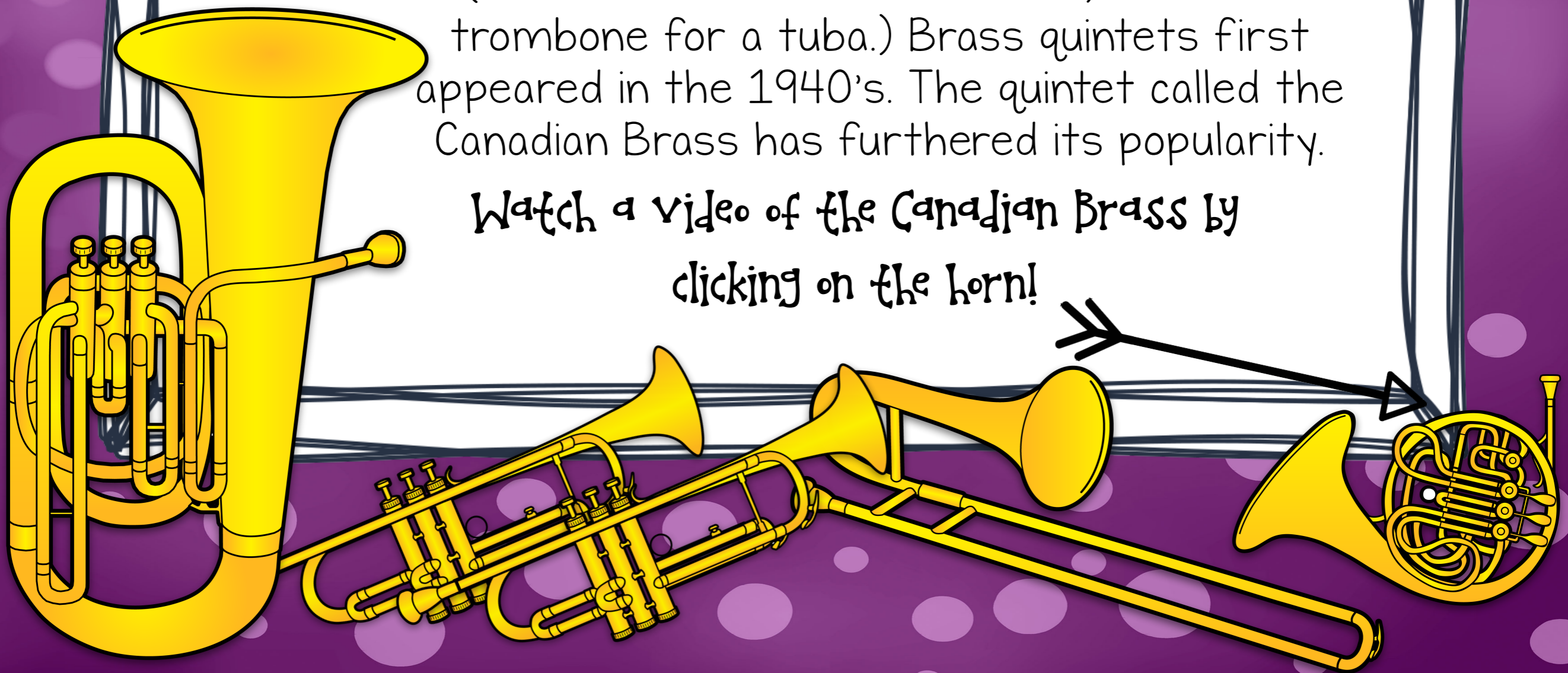
Watch a video by clicking on the
tuba!



Brass Quintet

When two trumpets, a horn, a trombone, and a tuba play together, it is called a "brass quintet." Sometimes other instruments are substituted (like a baritone for a trombone, or a bass trombone for a tuba.) Brass quintets first appeared in the 1940's. The quintet called the Canadian Brass has furthered its popularity.

Watch a video of the Canadian Brass by clicking on the horn!



How does a brass
instrument create sound?

Can you name any other brass
instruments?



Directions

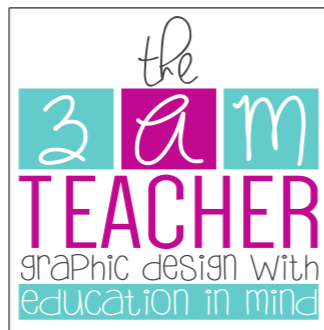
Have student volunteers read each slide, then play the clip associated with each slide. Please keep in mind that YouTube may insert commercials before any of the clips.

I have found it useful, if viewing on a SMART board or with a LCD projector, to click "freeze" before playing the video, until I am sure any commercial is over (especially since some of the commercials may not be appropriate for kids!) To play the clip, click the instrument, then click the arrow to go to the next page.



Credits

Sassy Designs for some clip art



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