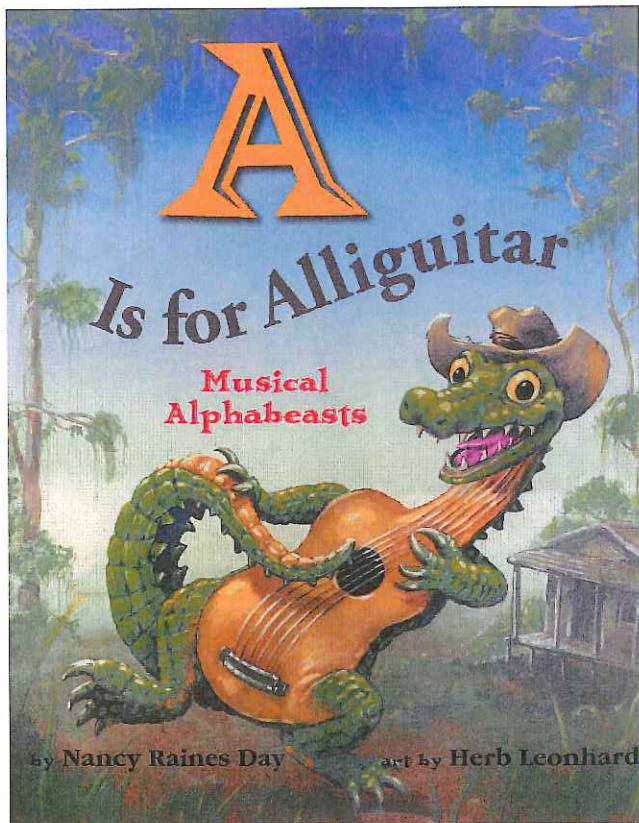


# **Classroom Activity Guide for *A is for Alliguitar: Musical Alphabeasts***

**Written by Nancy Raines Day and  
Illustrated by Herb Leonhard**



**Classroom activities to go with this book, prepared by Nancy Day:**

**Look at the Pictures**

**Animal Word Find**

**Instrument Crossword**

**Musical Alphabeast Math**

**Animal-Habitat Match**

**Alligator Maze and Fun Facts**

**Animal Poems and Activities**

**Where in the World?/World Scramble**

**Alphabeasts in the Orchestra**

**Creative Activities**

**Alliguitar Coloring Page**

**Alphabeast Bookmarks**

## LOOK at the Pictures

- The alliguitar and the banjaguar seem to be playing together. Guitar and banjo can both be heard in bluegrass music (along with mandolin, violin, and bass). Listen to a bluegrass song. Can you hear the guitar and banjo?

- The contrabassoon is twice as long as the bassoon, and the lowest instrument in an orchestra.

Macaque monkeys actually do drum on logs to show they are big and strong.

- The ukulele, a Hawaiian instrument, might be played at a party or feast called a luau. Dancers perform the hula, a swaying dance, in skirts made of grass or cloth.

- The lute is an ancient instrument known for its soothing sound. Harps have 47 strings.

- The ancient Egyptians had a wise god (Thoth) with the head of an ibis and another god (Anubis, who guarded tombs) with the head of a jackal.

Which musical alphabeasts are depicted in the “hieroglyphs” under the ibis?

- The female llamaracas is wearing the kind of full skirt Mexican dancers wear.

- It’s hard to play a stringed instrument with claws—or even long fingernails.

- Organists have to use both hands and feet to play, too.

The piccolo—a smaller flute—is the highest instrument in the orchestra.

- Big sets of bells can be played by a bell choir, with each member ringing one or two bells at the right time.

- The saxophone and trombone may be heard in jazz music, an all-American mix of European and African traditions.

- The cello is like a violin, but big enough to hold between the knees. It has a low, warm sound. The violin has a high sound, and it is held under the chin.

- Wolverines are commonly thought to look like wolves, but actually look much more like the wolbourines. Few people have seen them in the wild, as they mostly live in remote forest and mountain areas.

- The yakastanet is dressed like a Spanish flamenco dancer. Flamenco is an energetic dance style to a strong beat.

The zebrass all play brass instruments—trumpet, French horn, and trombone. The tuba is a brass instrument, too.

# Animal Word Find

u	c	a	l	l	a	m	a	u	a
a	e	s	t	u	n	j	l	r	c
t	t	o	i	h	a	o	l	c	t
s	o	r	e	c	o	n	i	h	r
k	r	a	k	m	e	a	g	i	i
o	r	a	n	g	u	t	a	n	e
x	l	n	r	r	w	u	t	v	h
e	n	i	r	e	v	l	o	w	a
m	j	y	n	n	k	e	r	h	n
c	i	i	l	a	g	m	e	n	n

alligator

emu

jackal

llama

lynx

newt

orangutan

rhinoceros

urchin

wolverine



alligator



emu



jackal



llama



lynx



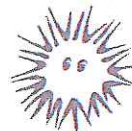
newt



orangutan



rhinoceros

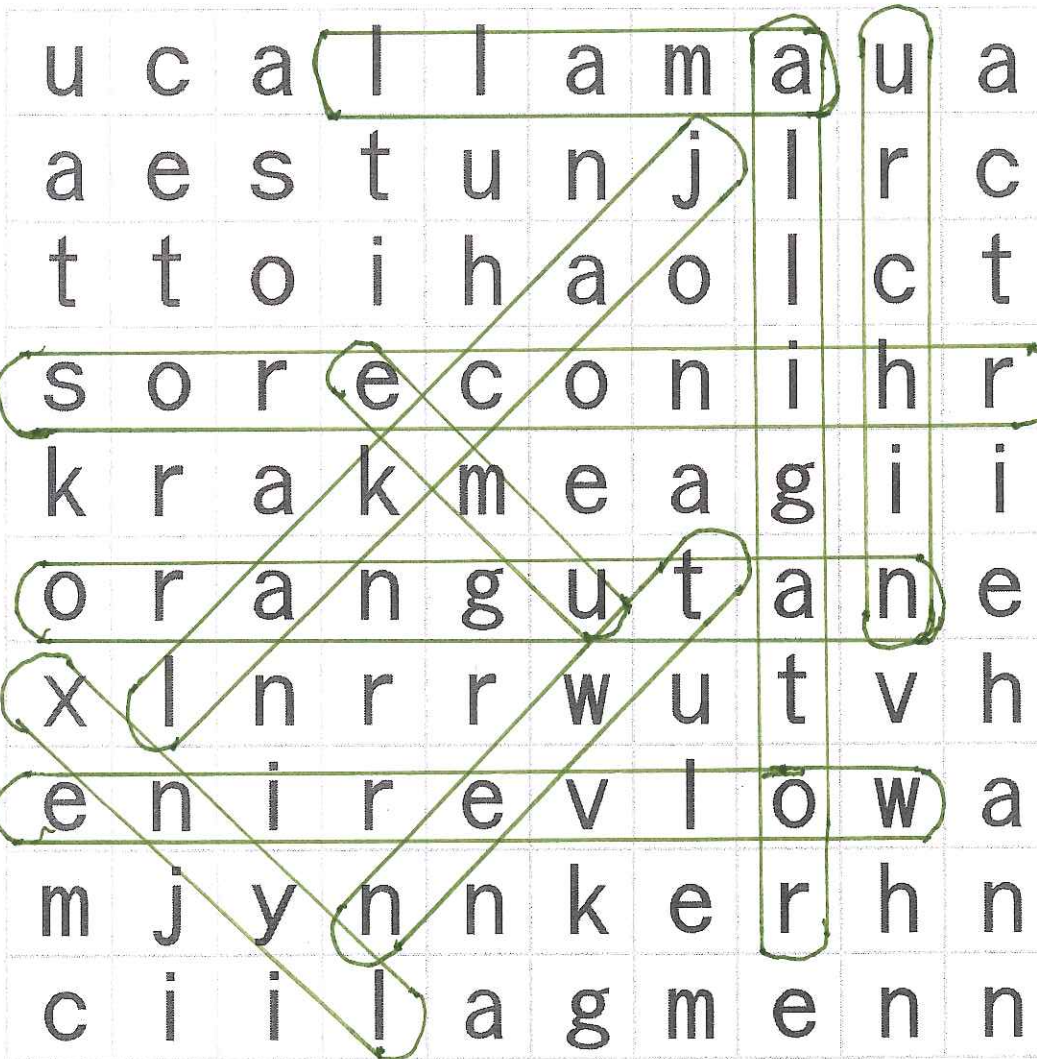


urchin



wolverine

# Animal Word Find



alligator

emu

jackal

llama

lynx

newt

orangutan

rhinoceros

urchin

wolverine



alligator



emu



jackal



llama



lynx



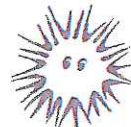
newt



orangutan



rhinoceros

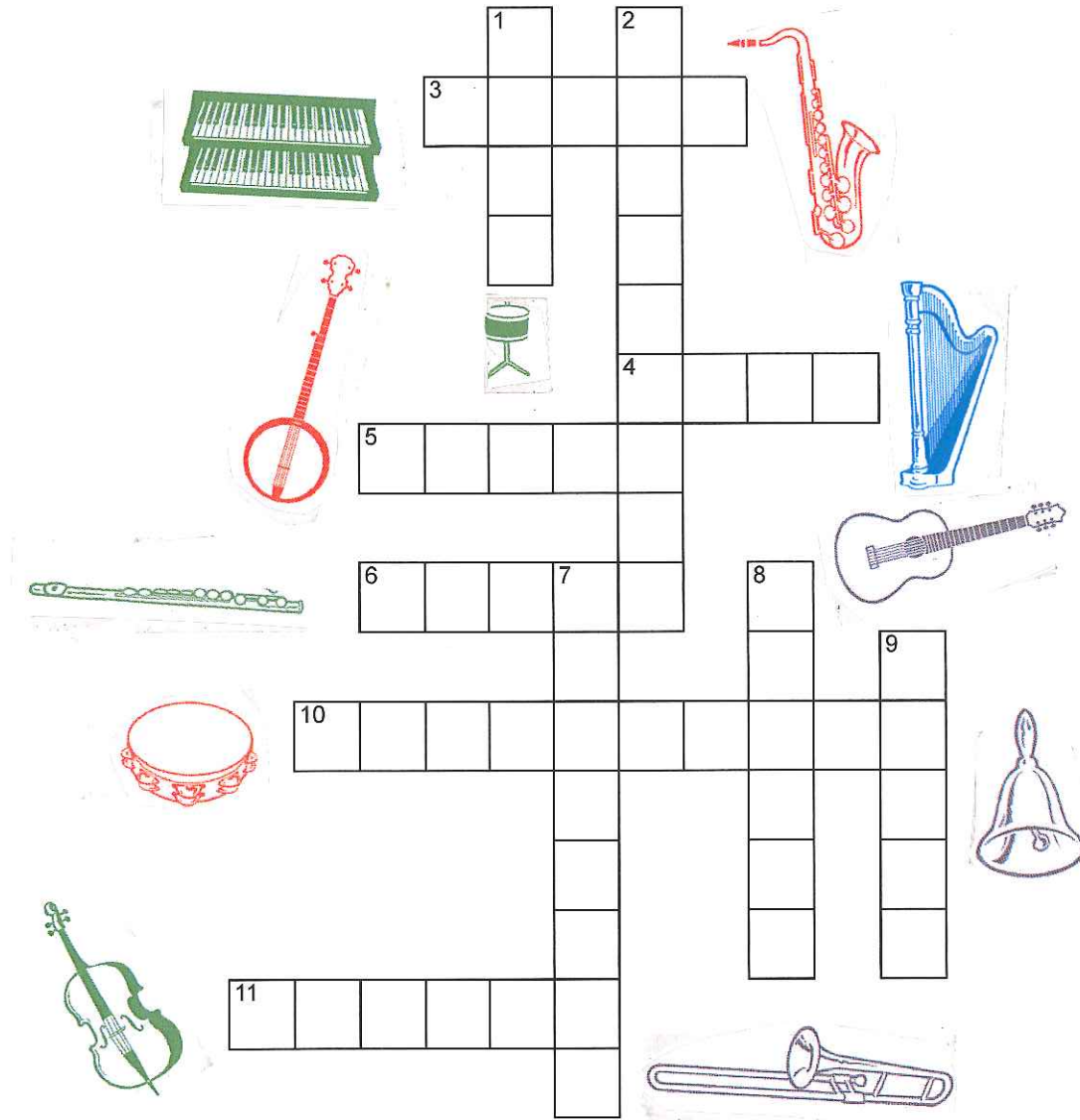


urchin



wolverine

## Instruments Alphabeasts Play



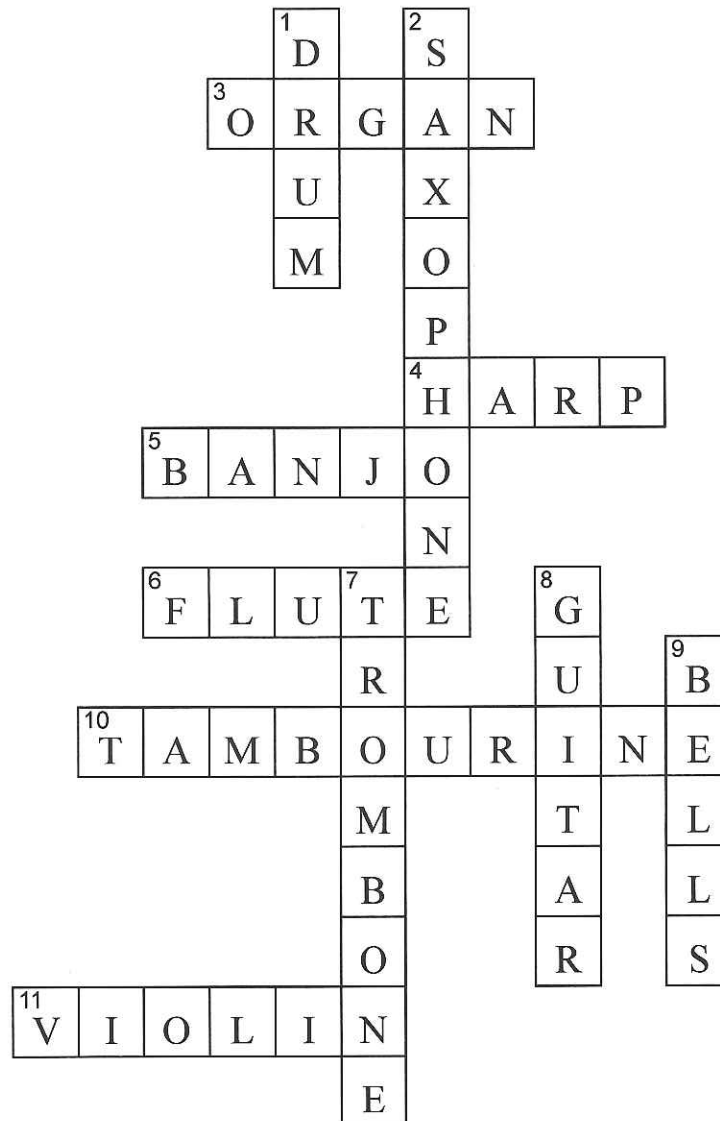
### Across:

3. Play its keyboard to send air through its pipes.
4. Its many strings make a twinkly sound.
5. You pluck it.
6. You blow into it sideways.
10. You strike and shake it.
11. You play it with a bow.

### Down:

1. You beat it with hands or sticks.
2. It has a smooth, jazzy sound.
7. You slide it.
8. You strum it.
9. You ring them.

## Instruments Alphabeasts Play



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# Musical Alphabeast Math



alligator

+ guitar

= a \_\_\_\_\_



banjo

+ jaguar

= b \_\_\_\_\_

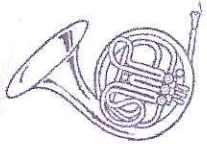
contrabassoon

+



baboon

= c \_\_\_\_\_



+ hornet

= F \_\_\_\_\_



+



synthesizer

= ibisynthesizer



+ lyre

= jackalyre

mandolin

+



= m \_\_\_\_\_



+ orangutan

= organutan

pig

+



piccolo

= p \_\_\_\_\_

queen bee

+ bell

= q \_\_\_\_\_

rhinoceros

+



= rhinoboe



+ cello

= urchello

wolverine

+



= wolbourine



+ castanets

= yakastanets



## Animal-Habitat Match

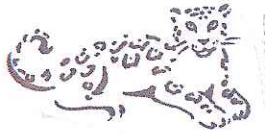
Draw a line from each animal to the habitat where it lives.

alligator



arctic

jaguar



grassland

newt



mountain

penguin



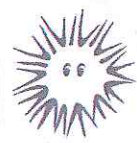
ocean

rhinoceros



pond

urchin



rain forest

wolverine

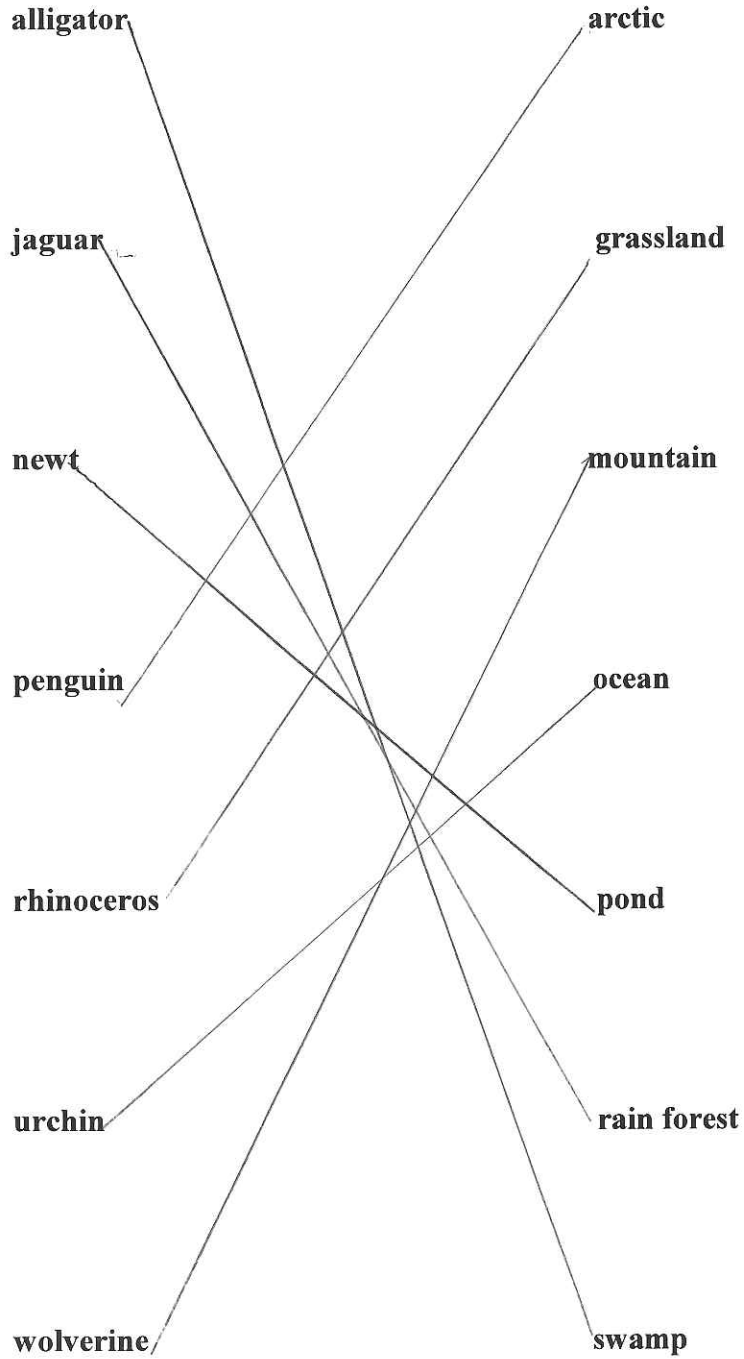


swamp



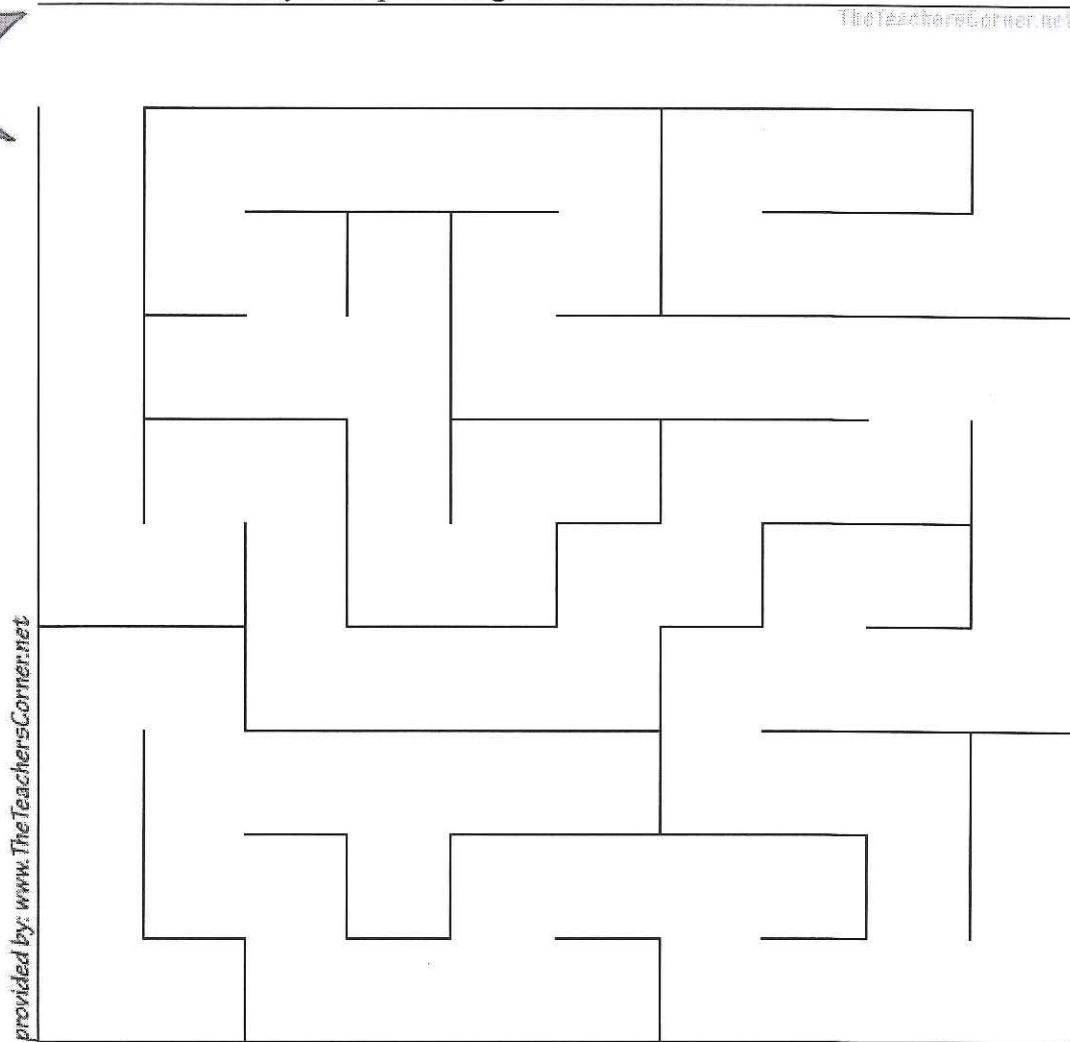
## Animal-Habitat Match

Draw a line from each animal to the habitat where it lives.



# ALLIGATOR MAZE

Can you help the alligator find its habitat?



## Alligator Fun Facts



Alligators live in swamps, marshes, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Today, they are common in all the southern states, from North Carolina to Texas.

Alligators dig holes that fill with water and make habitat for other animals during droughts.

Alligators can grow more than 13 feet long. They can live more than 60 years.

Alligators are closely related to the dinosaurs of the past and birds of the present.

Alligators have up to 80 teeth in their mouth at a time. As some wear down, new teeth grow in. An alligator can go through 2,000 to 3,000 teeth in a lifetime!

Alligators eat fish, snails and other invertebrates, birds, frogs, and mammals.

Alligators have attacked and killed a few people. Don't swim in or walk pets near places they live, especially between dusk and dawn when alligators are more active.

## Animal Poems and Activities

### Monkey or Ape?

Monkeys are monkeys, and so are baboons,  
But baboons cannot swing by their tails.  
Gorillas and orangutans don't even have one--  
Great apes are much bigger in scale.



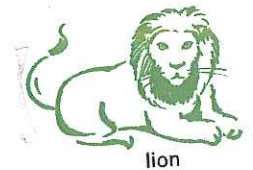
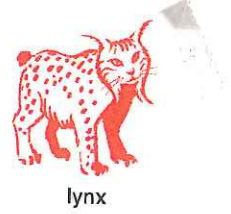
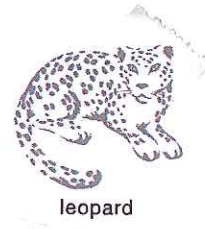
### Which Big Cat is Which?

Jaguars and leopards and lynxes have spots  
Lions do not.

Jaguars and leopards and lions like hot.  
Lynxes do not.

In the Americas? Jaguar or lynx.  
Spotted, in Africa? Leopard, I think.

On view at the zoo? There's every kind.  
All you can do is look at the sign!



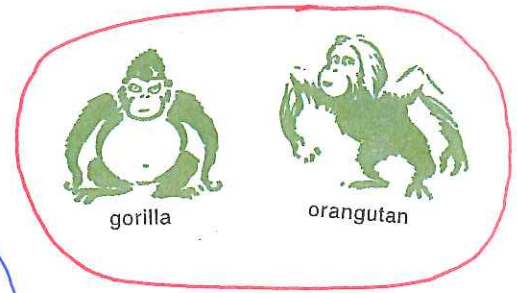
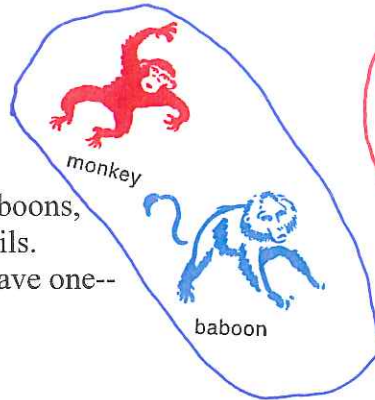
Draw a blue circle around the monkeys.  
Draw a red circle around the apes.

Draw a blue circle around the big cats with spots.  
Draw a red circle around the big cats that live where it's hot.  
Draw a green circle around the big cats that live in the Americas.

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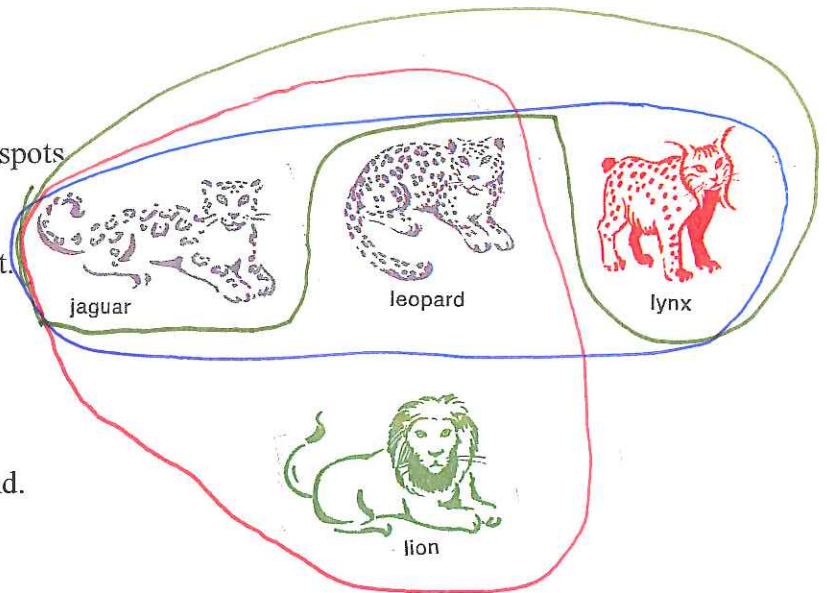
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## Where in the World?

Write in where you think the alphabeasts are, using the word bank below.  
If you need a hint, look in the book.

African plains      Egypt      Hawaii      Louisiana      Mexico

The **alliguitar** might be in \_\_\_\_\_.

The **emuke** is in \_\_\_\_\_.

The **ibisynthesizer** and **jackalyre** are in \_\_\_\_\_.

The **llamaracas** are in \_\_\_\_\_.

The **rhinoboe** is swinging across \_\_\_\_\_.

Find these places on a world map.

## Alphabeast Word Scramble

Unscramble these alphabeasts.

mueek      dumkeyron      llurigoet      hoodraple

tuwenab      logipo      bomorta      livonyx



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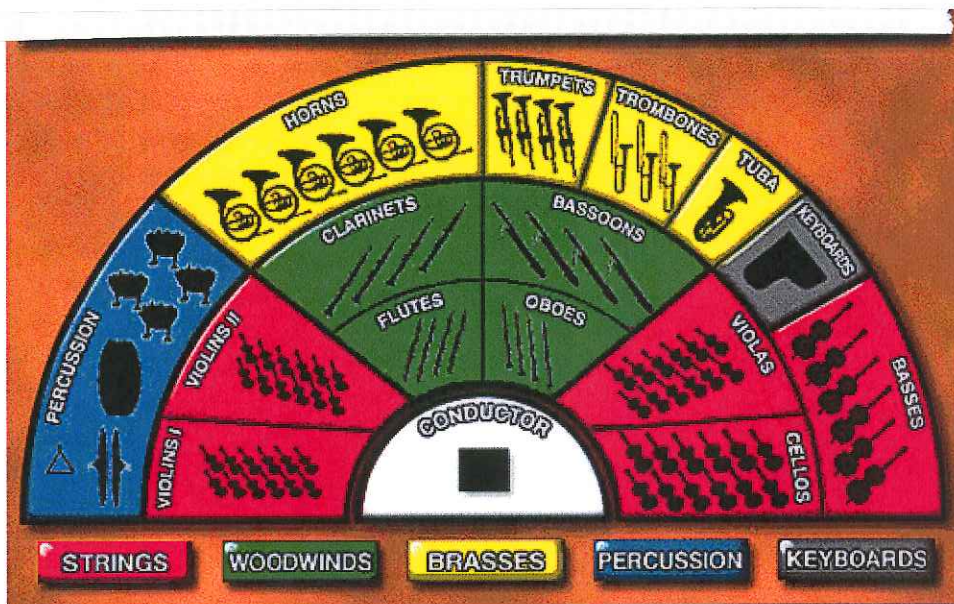
### Answers:

emuke      drumonkey      gorillute      harpoodle

newtuba      pigolo      tromboa      violynx

## Alphabeasts in the Orchestra

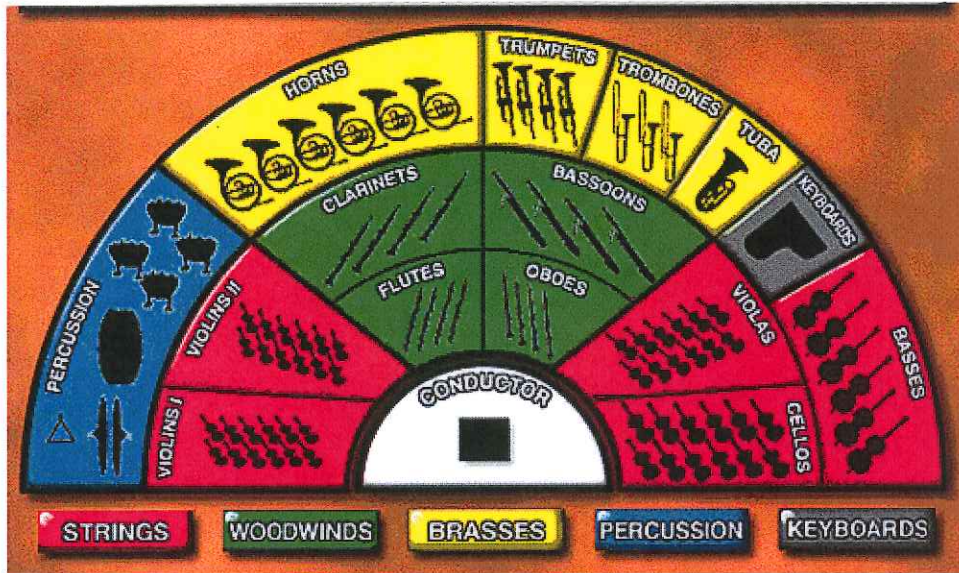
An orchestra is divided into sections: strings, woodwinds, brasses, percussion, and keyboards. Use the chart to answer the questions Y for yes or N for no.



- \_\_\_ The contrabassoon would sit in the woodwind section.
- \_\_\_ The French hornet would sit in the brass section with the zebrass.
- \_\_\_ The ibisynthesizer would sit in the percussion section.
- \_\_\_ The kangaflute would sit in the brass section.
- \_\_\_ The drumonkey would sit in the percussion section.
- \_\_\_ The newtuba would sit in the woodwind section.
- \_\_\_ The pigolo would sit with the kangaflute and rhinoboe.
- \_\_\_ The tromboia would sit with the newtuba and zebrass.
- \_\_\_ The urchello and violynx, both strings, would sit across from each other.

## Alphabeasts in the Orchestra

An orchestra is divided into sections: strings, woodwinds, brasses, percussion, and keyboards. Use the chart to answer the questions Y for yes or N for no.



- Y The contrabassoon would sit in the woodwind section.
- Y The French hornet would sit in the brass section with the zebrass.
- N The ibisynthensizer would sit in the percussion section.
- N The kangafute would sit in the brass section.
- Y The drumonkey would sit in the percussion section.
- N The newtuba would sit in the woodwind section.
- Y The pigolo would sit with the kangafute and rhinoboe.
- Y The tromboea would sit with the newtuba and zebrass.
- Y The urchello and violynx, both strings, would sit across from each other.

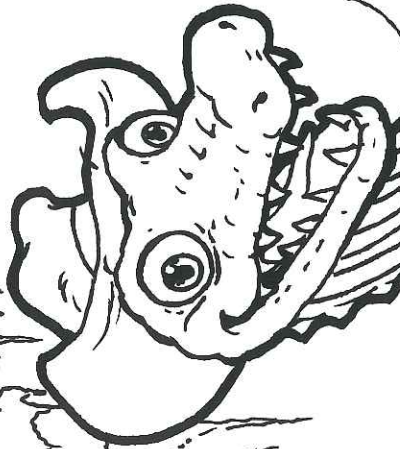


## Creative Activities

- Make up your own musical alphabeasts. Start with a favorite animal and find an instrument that starts with the animal's last letter or sound (or ends with the animal's first letter or sound). Or start with a favorite instrument and find an animal. If stuck, do a search for an alphabetical list of animals or instruments. You can assign each student a different letter of the alphabet, or brainstorm together as a class.
- Take one of the musical alphabeasts, say the alliguitar. Describe where an alliguitar would live. What would he eat? What kind of songs would he play?
- Write a story about a day in the life of one of the musical alphabeasts.
- Draw a picture of a favorite alphabeast.
- Make a collage of the animals or instruments in the book.
- Collect as many of the simple instruments in the book as you can. Play them separately and together.
- For older students: Make up your own combination creatures. Start with your own category—plant-animals, flower-instruments, or whatever else you can dream up. Give a few examples of possible creatures in your category and draw them.

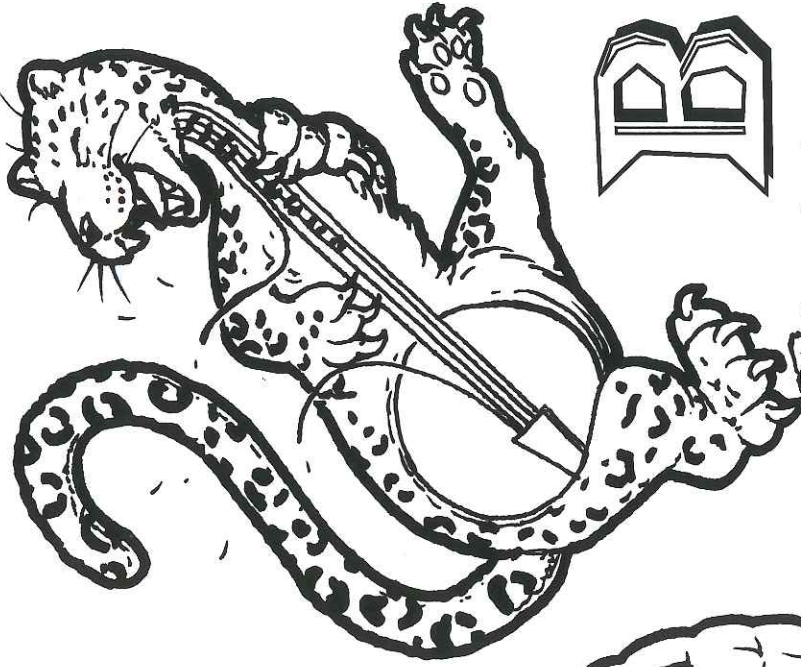
A

is for alligator,  
who has his  
own picks.



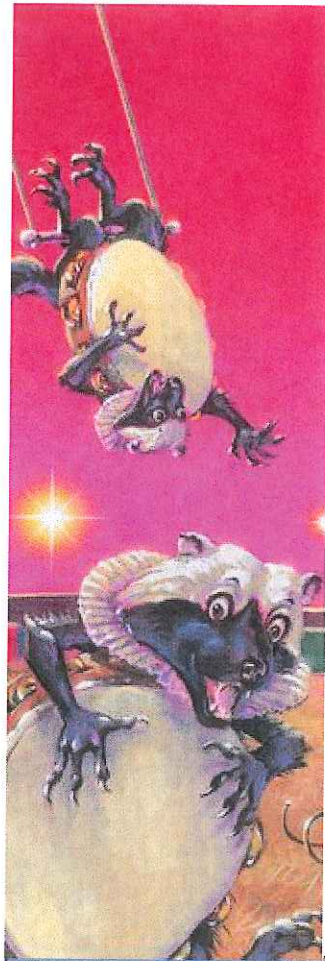
B

is for banjo,  
who plays some  
hot licks.





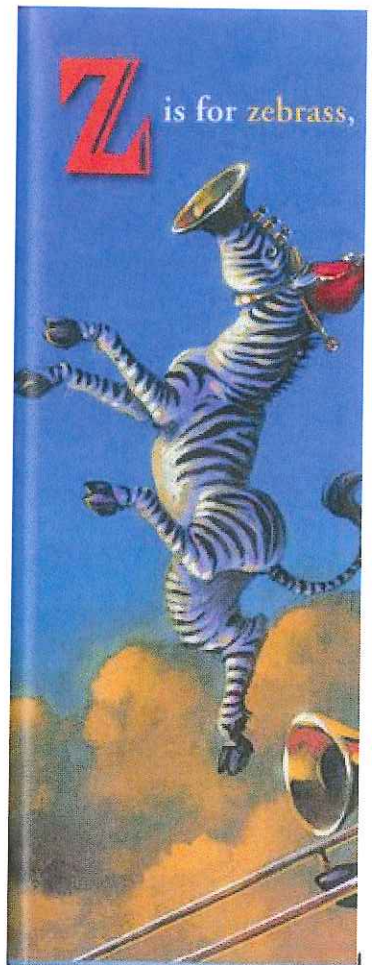
*A is for  
Alliguitar:  
Musical  
Alphabeasts*



*A is for  
Alliguitar:  
Musical  
Alphabeasts*



*A is for  
Alliguitar:  
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*A is for  
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