



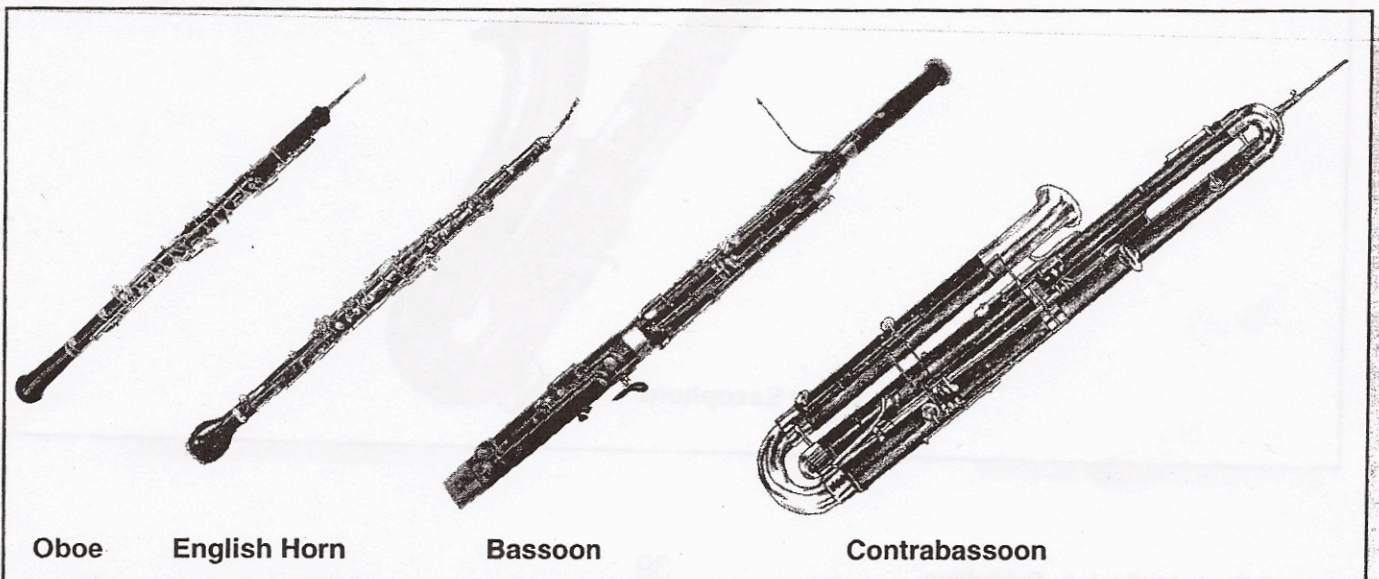
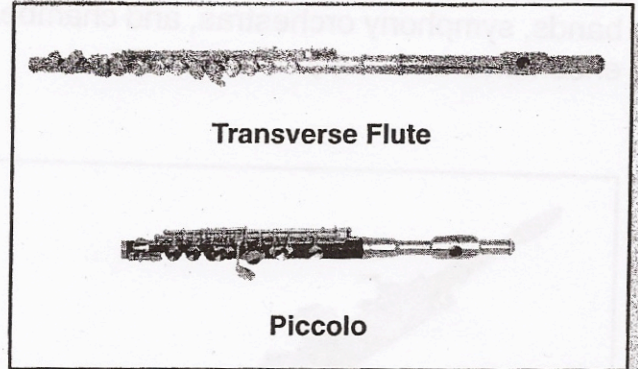
## Chapter 11: All in the Family—The Woodwinds

The three main groups of **woodwind instruments** are **single-reed instruments**, such as the clarinet and saxophone families; **double-reed instruments**, such as the oboe and bassoon; and the flute, where the sound is created by blowing across an open hole. The oldest known woodwind instruments are the *aulos* and the *shawm*. These instruments date back to ancient Greek and Medieval cultures and were similar in some respects to modern-day oboes. The bodies of these instruments were made out of wood. Sound was created by blowing through two thin **reeds** (pieces of wood) to produce a vibration. Finger holes could be covered or uncovered to change the pitch.

Instruments like the aulos and the shawm were prevalent throughout the Middle Ages and early Renaissance. Then larger instruments were designed with double reeds. The large woodwind instruments provided a drone pitch over which other melodies and music would be played or sung. During the Renaissance, flutes and recorders became important. The Renaissance flutes were like recorders, played in a vertical position.

The Baroque era introduced the **transverse flute**, a flute that is played off to the side in a horizontal position. During the Renaissance era, descendants of the shawm were further refined and became known as oboes and English horns. The clarinet, the first single-reed instrument, was not introduced into music until the Classic era. All of these woodwind instruments had open holes over which fingers could be placed to change the pitch of the instrument. In the Romantic era and early twentieth century, keys and pads were used to cover the holes, making it possible for musicians to play faster and more technical music.

In addition to the oboe and bassoon, the double-reed family includes the English horn, which is slightly longer and has a lower range than the oboe, and the contrabassoon, which is larger than a bassoon and plays very low notes.





## Chapter 11: All in the Family—The Woodwinds (cont.)

The clarinet family consists of an *E-flat* alto clarinet, a *B-flat* clarinet, a *B-flat* bass clarinet, *E-flat* contra-alto, and *B-flat* contra-bass clarinet. The key names designate the key of the instrument.

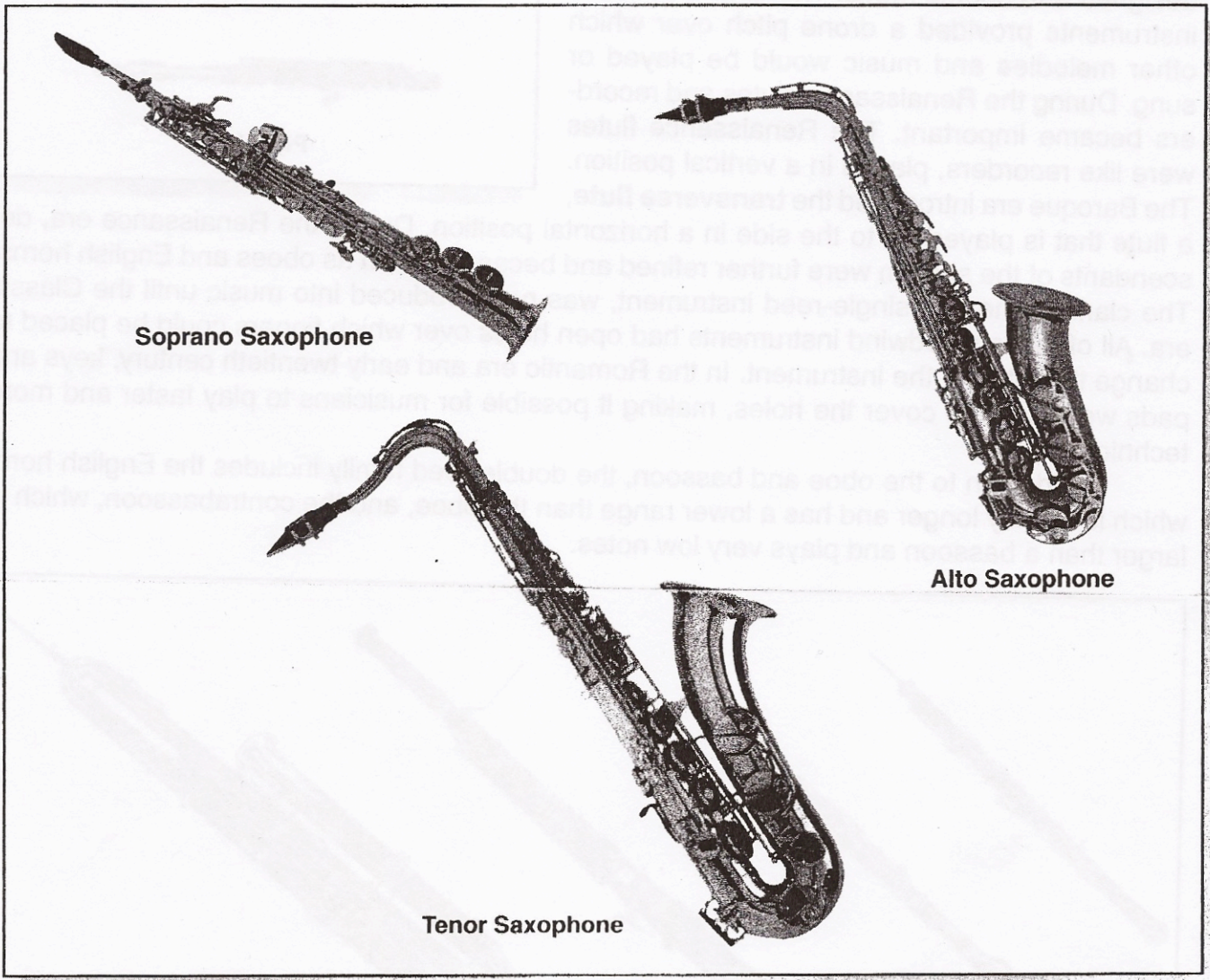
The saxophone group consists of a soprano sax, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, and the lesser-played bass saxophone.

The flute family includes the piccolo, flute, alto flute, tenor flute, and bass flute. Each flute gets larger in size, from piccolo to bass flute, and therefore lower in pitch.

Woodwind instruments in the European culture, and now American culture, are found in ensembles such as bands, marching bands, symphony orchestras, and chamber groups, as well as jazz ensembles and many other groups.



Clarinet



Soprano Saxophone

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

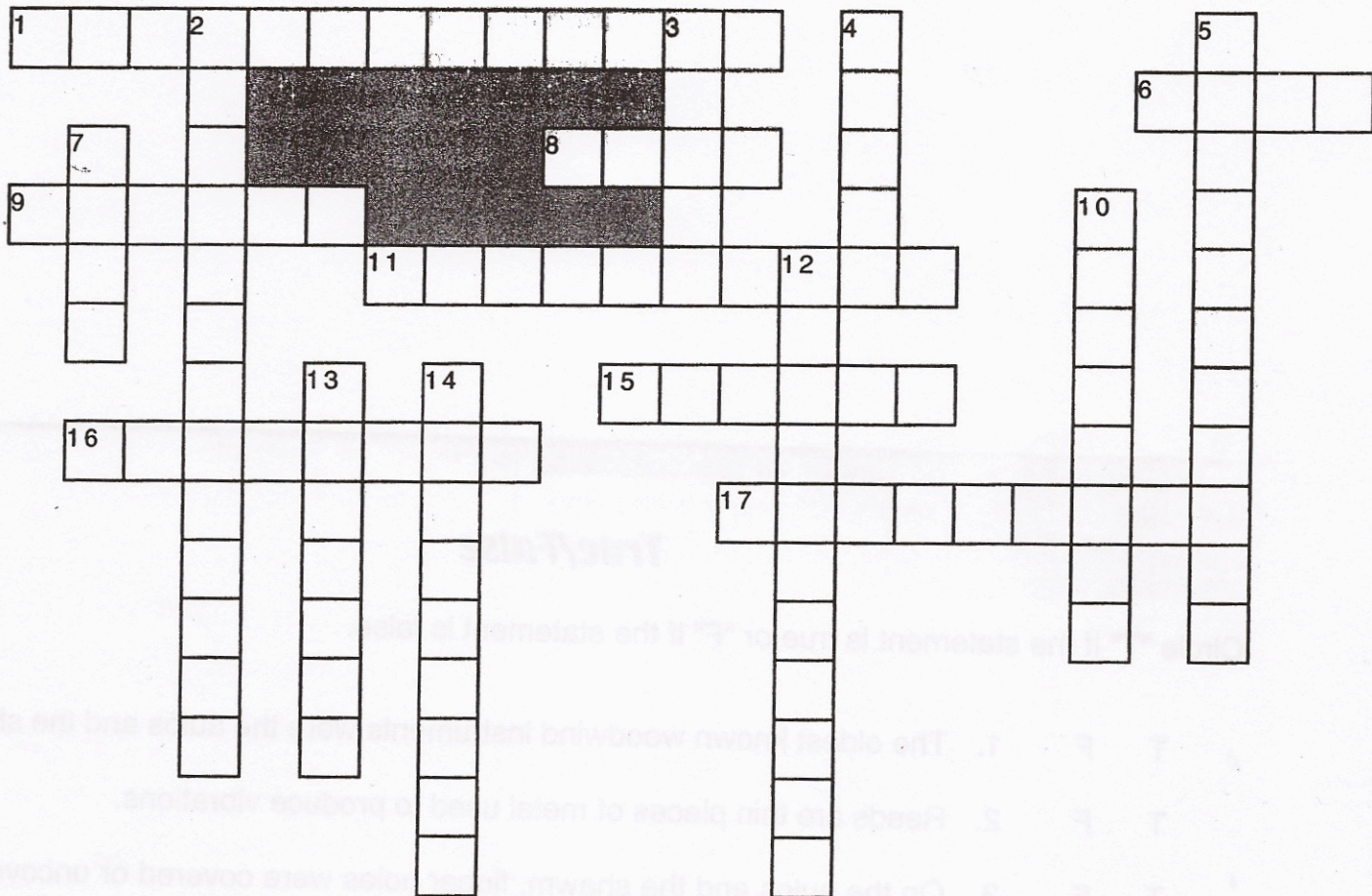
## *True/False*

Circle "T" if the statement is true or "F" if the statement is false.

- T F 1. The oldest known woodwind instruments were the aulos and the shawm.
- T F 2. Reeds are thin pieces of metal used to produce vibrations.
- T F 3. On the aulos and the shawm, finger holes were covered or uncovered to change the pitch.
- T F 4. Flutes and recorders became important during the Medieval period.
- T F 5. A transverse flute is held in a vertical position.
- T F 6. The clarinet was the first single-reed instrument.
- T F 7. The piccolo is the lowest member of the flute family.
- T F 8. The bassoon is larger than the contrabassoon.
- T F 9. Keys and pads were introduced to cover the holes in woodwind instruments in the Romantic era.
- T F 10. The saxophone group is also part of the woodwind family.

## Chapter 11: Crossword Puzzle

**Directions:** Complete the crossword puzzle below using terms from the chapter.



### ACROSS

1. \_\_\_\_\_, jazz ensembles, and symphony groups include woodwind instruments.
6. In the Romantic era and early in the twentieth century, \_\_\_\_\_ and pads were used to cover the finger holes.
8. A descendant of the shawm
9. Keys and pads made it possible for musicians to play \_\_\_\_\_ and more technical music.
11. An oboe is a \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ instrument.
15. The aulos and the shawm each had \_\_\_\_\_ holes to change the pitch.
16. The first single-reed instrument was the \_\_\_\_\_.
17. In the aulos and the shawm, sound was created by blowing through two thin reeds to produce a \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

2. Larger than the bassoon, the \_\_\_\_\_ plays very low notes.
3. The larger woodwind instruments provide a \_\_\_\_\_ pitch.
4. Sound is produced by blowing across an open hole in the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Flutes and recorders became popular during the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The lowest saxophone in pitch is the \_\_\_\_\_ saxophone.
10. The aulos and the shawm are the oldest known \_\_\_\_\_ instruments.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is included in the double-reed family.
13. The flute that has the highest pitch is the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The Renaissance flutes were like \_\_\_\_\_, played in a vertical position.