

Procedural Guidelines for Creating Percussion Instruments

Read all directions before beginning this project.

Materials Needed:

1. Several bottles or glasses that are the same size
2. Water
3. Spoon
4. Food coloring

Step 1: Planning phase

1. Lay out your materials.
2. Within your group, discuss how you will safely handle the glass objects used in this experiment.

Step 2: Setting up your instrument

1. Using a ruler, fill each glass or bottle to the height designated in the Scientific Process Guidelines
2. Add one drop of food coloring to each glass, making the water the appropriate color. Stir with spoon if necessary.
3. Line up the glasses or bottles from lowest level of water to highest.

Step 3: Playing your instrument

1. Carefully tap each glass or bottle with a spoon, striking the xylophone where the air column is evident (not where there is water.)

Coffee Can Drum

Materials Needed

2. Coffee can
3. Construction paper
4. Scissors
5. Tape / glue
6. Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Step 1: Planning Phase

1. Make decisions regarding how you want to decorate your coffee can drum.
2. Illustrate your plans or write a short paragraph detailing how your drum will look.

Step 2: Setting up your instrument

1. Cut the construction paper so that it will wrap around the coffee can and cover all sides.
2. Following the plans you made, decorate the paper that will wrap your drum. If your plans change, please note this on the planning paper.
3. Remove the lid from the can, and tape or glue your cover on the can.
4. Place lid on the can.

Step 3: Playing your instrument

1. The lid of the can becomes the “drum head” or “drum pad.”
2. The drumhead or drum pad can be struck with the hand.
3. Drumsticks or mallets can be constructed from the following materials:
 - A. Pencil with an eraser
 - B. Dowel rod with a wooden bead on the end
 - C. Chop stick with a rubber band around the end

Maracas

Materials Needed

1. Any type of small container
 - A. Empty pill bottle
 - B. Film canister
 - C. Soda can
 - D. Frozen juice can
2. Shaking materials
 - A. Popcorn kernels

- B. Dried beans
 - C. Rice
3. Tape / glue
 4. Construction paper
 5. Scissors
 6. Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Step 1: Planning Phase

1. Make decisions regarding how you want to decorate your maracas.
2. Illustrate your plans or write a short paragraph detailing how your maracas will look.

Step 2: Setting up your instrument

1. Cut the construction paper so that it will wrap around the small container and cover all sides.
2. Following the plans you made, decorate the paper that will wrap your maracas. If your plans change, please note this on the planning paper.
3. Remove the lid from the container, and tape or glue your cover on the container.
4. Place lid on the container. If no lid is available, cover the top with paper. If there is small hole, like a soda can, cover the hole with masking tape.

Step 3: Playing your instrument

1. Shake away!

Paper Plate Tambourine

Materials Needed

1. Two Paper plates
2. Shaking materials
 - A. Popcorn kernels
 - B. Dried beans
 - C. Rice
3. Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
4. Stapler

5. Tape

Step 1: Planning Phase

1. Make decisions regarding how you want to decorate your tambourine.
2. Illustrate your plans or write a short paragraph detailing how your tambourine will look.

Step 2: Setting up your instrument

1. Following the plans you made, decorate the outside of the two paper plates. If your plans change, please note this on the planning paper.
2. Place the chose "shaking materials" on the inside of one plate.
3. Place the second plate on top.
4. Staple around the plate edges.
5. Cover the rough edges of the staples with tape to protect your fingers.

Step 3: Playing your instrument

1. Shake away!