

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Sound,
Instruments, Rhythm

Materials List

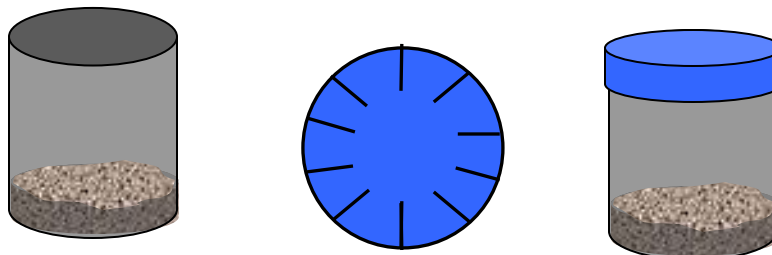
- ✓ 1 Cardboard tube
- ✓ 2 Index cards (or equivalent)
- ✓ Masking tape
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Beans, rice, plastic bits, sand, or equivalent
- ✓ Optional: stickers or other decorative items

This activity can be used to teach:

- Sound and Sound Waves (CA Science Standards: Grade 2, 1.g; Grade 3, 1.d)
- Investigation and Experimentation (CA Science Standards: Grades K-8)
- Diversity of World Music (CA Music Standards: Grades K-8, Historical and Cultural Context, 3.0)

Tube Maracas

Idiophones for Rhythm



This activity gives young learners an opportunity to explore rhythms using very simple, maraca-style, “shaker” instruments. All people learn in different ways. This activity appeals to both auditory and tactile learners.

Assembly

1. Cut the index cards into circles with a diameter about 5 cm (2”) greater than the diameter of the tube.
2. Place the tube end onto each card and trace the tube shape onto the center of the card.
3. Cut several slits from the outside of each index card circle to the center, stopping at the traced circle.
4. Create a “tube cap” by placing a slit circle onto an end of the empty tube. Fold down the slit edge “tabs”, and secure the “cap” into place with masking tape.
5. Fill the tube, to about 2.5 cm (1”), with noise-making material of choice.
6. Repeat Step 4 to create a second “tube cap”, securing the Tube Maraca shut.

To Do and Notice

Shake the Tube Maracas with quick, up and down motions to explore sounds and rhythms.

Teacher Note: This activity can be used as a group activity or in stations, with students exploring rhythms on their own.

The Content Behind the Activity

Sound is caused by vibrations that travel in compression waves through the air (the medium) and into the ear. Once hitting the eardrum, the sound is sent to the brain’s auditory cortex where it is analyzed and interpreted.

Rhythm is the heartbeat of music. Regular, steady beats are most common in popular music today, but many common world dance forms have more complex rhythms:

- Waltz, Foxtrot, and Greek Syrtos: Slow Quick Quick, Slow Quick Quick
- Rumba and Polka: Quick Quick Slow, Quick Quick Slow
- Swing: Slow Slow Quick Quick, Slow Slow Quick Quick

Scholars classify musical instruments into 4 main categories by which part of the instrument vibrates to make the sounds: chordophones = vibrating strings; membranophones = vibrating membranes; aerophones = vibrating columns of air; and idiophones = part of the item itself vibrates. Symbols, triangles, xylophones, bells, and many world instruments (e.g. – maracas) fall into the idiophone category.

Web Resources - Visit www.raft.net/more for how-to videos and more ideas!