



Interesting facts about Roman music

- The Romans recorded their music using a Greek method which consisted of four letters corresponding to four notes with rhythm signs above each note that indicated their length.
- Unfortunately, very little Roman music has survived. There are more surviving written recordings of ancient Greek music than of Roman.
- Roman music was monophonic consisting of single melodies and not harmonic.
- There were music competitions such as the ones organized by emperor Nero. Musicians from all around the empire would come to compete.
- The *pantomimus* was an early form of ballet that combined dancing, music and the equivalent of an opera singer.

Why Do Instruments Make Sound?

An **instrument** creates **sound** when part of it vibrates rapidly. The column of air inside a wind **instrument**, the string of a string **instrument**, or the stretched skin of a drum all vibrate when played. This vibration produces **sound** waves in the air, which we hear as musical notes.

www.factmonster.com/dk/encyclopedia/musical-instruments.html

Research and Activity Idea: Check out some of the links below, and find pictures of the various Ancient Instruments of Rome and Greece and make flash cards or a matching game. Dig deeper and look at Ancient Egyptian, African and Indian instruments. What are the 3 Main Categories of Instruments? See how many instruments are similar to each other from around the world.

Bonus: Who was considered the "Father of Musical Instruments"

Instructional / Documentary Videos to Watch

Roman Rhythm

<https://youtu.be/xIFCaFhm1Wk>

Ancient Stringed Instrument - Replica being played

<https://youtu.be/DFCvu0oKlvU>

The Ancient Greek Kithara

<https://youtu.be/6adj7Xoo9Us>

John & Patrick Kenny play the reconstruction of the etruscan Lituus

<https://youtu.be/jQm6-uoqS8Q>

The Aulos

https://youtu.be/lk8cS_60aSI

Ancient Greek Auloi #2

https://youtu.be/Pjdxft_Qi94

First performance of the reproduction Roman Hydraulis Organ at Bath

<https://youtu.be/bP2u8NBI5m8>

Roman Replica Hydraulis at the Roman Baths

<https://youtu.be/VesLeVMK5aE>

Listen to Ancient Roman Music

Set the mood and enhance your understanding of Ancient Roman Music by listening to it in the background while you are working. **Digging Deeper Activity: Active Listening Activity: Choose a song that has a few different instruments.** See if you can identify some of the instruments you learned about.

The Oldest Known Melody (Hurrian Hymn no.6 - c.1400 B.C.) by Michael Levy

<https://youtu.be/QpxN2VXPMLc>

Ancient Roman Lyre Music

<https://youtu.be/COpe-Nq6QaY>

Ancient Rome Music

<https://youtu.be/RPtBnpd5gxc>

Ancient Roman Music (118 Minutes)

<https://youtu.be/rgRmmyNKaU>

Ancient Roman Music - Musica Romana I

<https://youtu.be/X83lYWmcEFg>

Ancient Roman Banquet Music

<https://youtu.be/P9QN3DzHzIq>

John Kenny - The Voice of the Carnyx

<https://youtu.be/NYM0xB5Jrc0>

Son' 'e canna

https://youtu.be/FzkPOn8S_B4

Music from Ancient Rome part III

<https://youtu.be/NhuTAnJcHH4>

Buccina Ensemble Bonn

<https://youtu.be/pvIVFp3pe0Y>

Cornicen- Musica Romana.

<https://youtu.be/hOAgwHW-Wxg>

Aulos / Tibia auf dem Römerfest in Xanten (Hydraulis & Cornu and aulos)

<https://youtu.be/uwGCZ0pLjAs>

Helpful Websites

<http://www.tribunesandtriumphs.org/roman-life/roman-music.htm>

<http://blogs.getty.edu/iris/what-did-ancient-music-sound-like/>

Ancient Greek Music on Papyrus: Two New Fragments <http://people.duke.edu/~wj25/music%20site/>

The Aulos and Cithara <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/kal/agm/>

Ancient Roman Music (be sure to scroll down to the bottom area about the instruments)

<http://www.ancestral.co.uk/romanmusic2003.htm>

Slideshare presentation of Ancient Music <http://www.slideshare.net/ebie0967/an-46147194>

*Instrument Making Challenge for older students or with a crafty parent - Make your own shofar:

<http://hearingshofar.blogspot.co.uk/2010/05/diy-shofarot-for-kids.html>

Drum instructions from Wikihow <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Homemade-Drum>

Better Rainstick project - <http://happyhooligans.ca/rain-sticks/>

Exploring Sound <http://mrsmyerskindergarten.blogspot.com/2015/02/exploring-sound-project-and-presentation.html> (I like the lyre and gong projects here)

Why Instruments Make Sound (interactive and includes different categories of instruments)

<http://www.dkfindout.com/us/science/sound/making-music/>

Musica Romana - a reenactor Roman group of musicians with some great "extras" for information

<http://www.musica-romana.de/en/index-beta.html>

Books:

- ❖ *Music in Ancient Greece and Rome* by John G Landels (high-school - college level)
- ❖ *If I Were a Kid in Ancient Rome: Children of the Ancient World* (1st-3rd gr. level) Cobblestone Publishing
- ❖ *Classical Kids: An Activity Guide to Life in Ancient Greece and Rome* Laurie Carlson
- ❖ *DK Eyewitness Books: Ancient Rome* Simon James

Activity: play with instruments, make a systra, drum, or tambourine, straw pan pipes, lyre, rice shakers

Supplies (Choose 1-3 instruments to make during class period or into free time if want to make more):

- ❖ **Pan pipes:** 10 plastic straws, tape
- ❖ **Systra 1:** 10 jingle bells, 1 pc construction paper, 1 sturdy cardboard tube, needle and thread or hot glue
- ❖ **Systra 2:** 1 wire coat hanger, Electrical tape, Two (unsharpened) pencils or small dowels, Assorted buttons, jingle bells or metal washers, A small amount of floral wire, jewelry wire, fishing twine or embroidery thread, A wire-cutter
- ❖ **Systra 3:** small cardboard sheet, pipe cleaner, 8 bells or buttons,
- ❖ flexible thin cardboard (an old cereal box is ideal)
- ❖ **Lyre 1:** shoebox or cereal box, paper towel tube, tp tube, 6 rubber bands, markers, 12 brads or brass fasteners, scissors
- ❖ **Lyre 2:** coat hanger, rubber bands (or yarn) and a metal bowl
- ❖ **Lyre 3:** shoe box lid, cereal box, or any open box including long jewelry box, 7-10 rubber bands, cardboard paper towel tube or other sturdy tube
- ❖ **Mini Lyre 4:** 3 rubber bands, 1 jar lid, 1 wide popsicle stick (depressor style), hot glue, markers or crayons
- ❖ **Tambourine 1:** 2 sturdy Paper plates , Glue, 8-10 jingle Bells, Yarn or ribbon or 6 pipe cleaners, Paint and Brush, hole punch
- ❖ **Tambourine 2:** 1 embroidery hoops set, 6-8 jingle bells, glue, fabric of choice or lg paper bag
- ❖ **Rain stick:** tp tube or paper towel tube, 2 milk caps, rice or navy beans, paper, glue
- ❖ **Drum 1:** Tin can, electrical tape, 2 balloons, rubber band, construction paper, crayons or markers, drumstick unsharpened pencil, a couple sheets of tissue paper, (optional - small rubber ball)
- ❖ **Drum 2:** Oatmeal container or round plastic tub, wax paper, rubber band, drumstick unsharpened pencil, a couple sheets of tissue paper, (optional - small rubber ball)
- ❖ **Shaker 1:** water bottle, tp tube, washi tape or greenery tape, filler (beads, dried beans, bird seeds, or rice)
- ❖ **Shaker 2:** egg carton, glue, scissors, 2 popsicle sticks, filler, paint or markers
- ❖ **Shaker 3:** 2 wide popsicle sticks, 4-6 jingle bells, hot glue
- ❖ **Shaker 3:** tp tube, Duct or electrical tape, Milk bottle caps (2 per shaker), Black marker, Filler (Dried beans, rice, coffee beans or similar to make the shaking sound)
- ❖ **Clapper:** cardboard strip, 2 jar lids equal size, hot glue



Get More Great Ideas, Resources and Activities about Ancient Rome at [HersheysHistory.com](https://www.HersheysHistory.com)

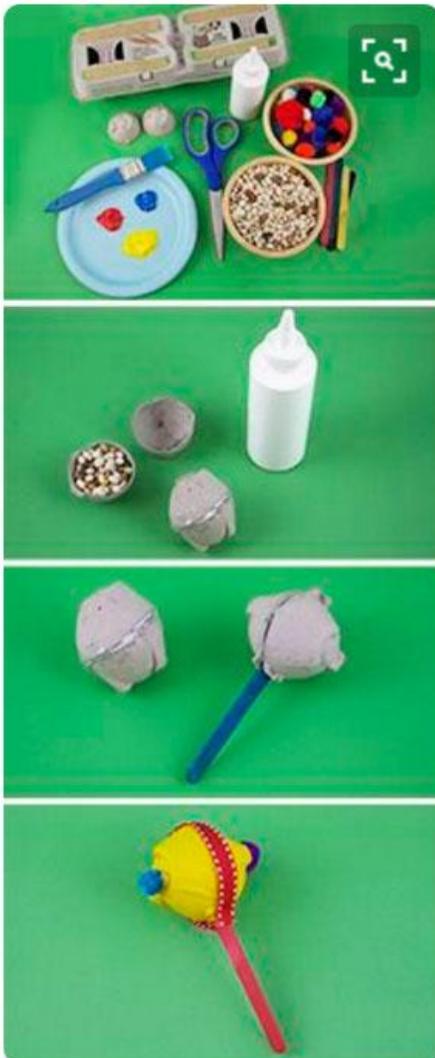


More Free Roman Games and Activities @ HersheysHistory.com



Shaker

Crystal light containers filled with rice &/or beans. Cute skit & insert a wood stick/paint stick.



Shaker 2

Supplies:

- Egg carton
- Pom-poms
- Ribbon
- Beans or rice
- Ice pop stick
- Glue
- Paint brushes

Cut four individual cups out of an egg carton. Fill two of these cups with beans or rice. Place glue around the perimeter of these cartons. Then, place the other two cups on top of the first two cups so that the beans or rice are sealed inside.

Before your glue dries, slip an ice pop stick between the two halves of each egg carton maraca.

Once your work has dried, use paint, pom poms, and ribbon to decorate your creation. Then, give your maracas a shake!



Tambourine

- 2 Paper plates
- Glue
- Bells
- Yarn or ribbon
- Paint and Brush

Here's how you make it...

1. Paint your paper plates - eating side down. Once they're dry glue your plates together. After they are securely in place punch holes around your paper plate. With yarn or ribbon, tie on your bells. Now you're ready to make some music!



(Carla de Koning /Demand Media)

Things You'll Need

- Empty shoe box
- Empty toilet paper roll
- 7 rubber bands
- 12 brass fasteners
- Scissors
- Empty oatmeal container
- Waxed paper (12 Inches squared)
- Packing tape
- 7 drinking straws

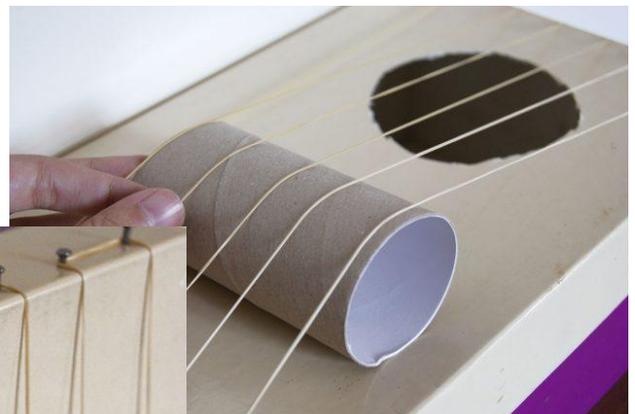
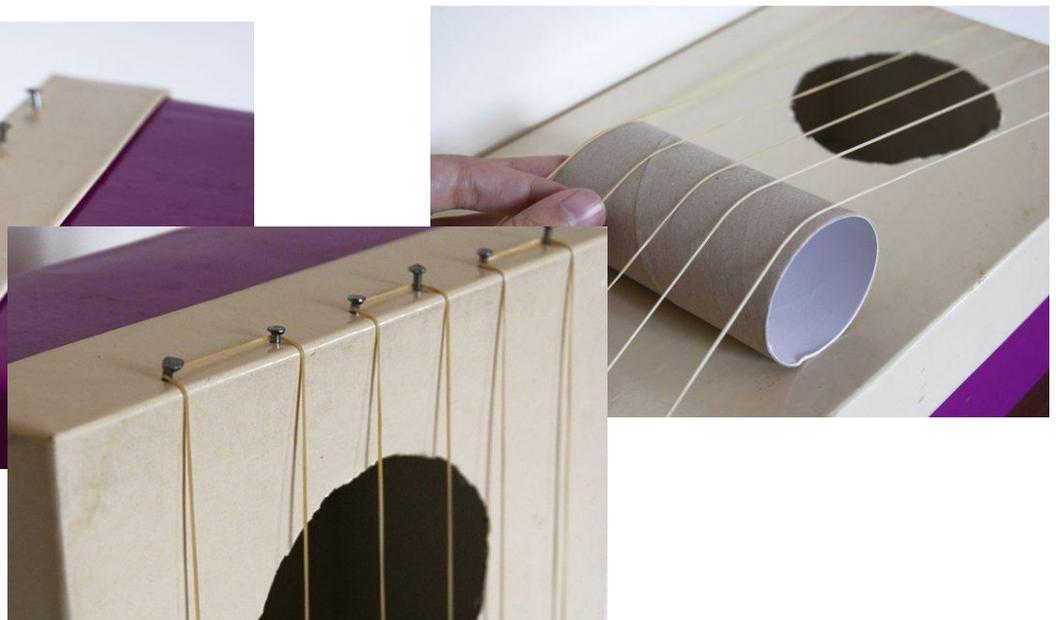
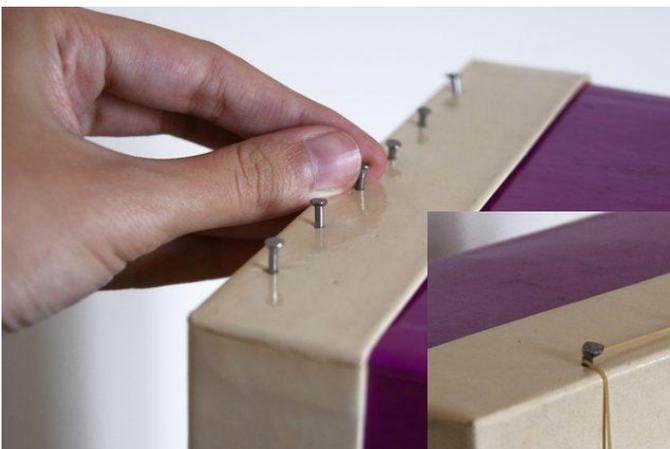


Step 1 Using scissors, cut a hole slightly off-center on the top of an empty shoe box. Make the hole around 3 inches in diameter.

Step 2 Push 12 brass fasteners into the shoe box, placing six on one end and six on the other end. Space the brads out evenly.

Step 3 Cut six rubber bands in half so they become six long rubber band strings. For each rubber band string, tie one end to a brad, then stretch it across the hole, tying the other end to the opposite brad.

Step 4 Cut open an empty toilet paper roll, and slip it underneath one side of the strings, lifting them up slightly. Your lyre is now complete.

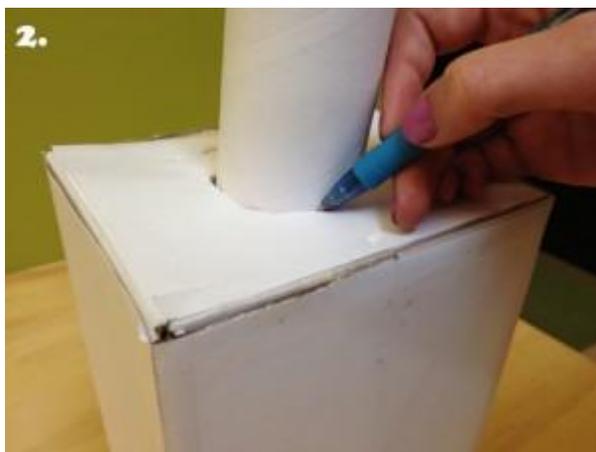


What You'll Need:

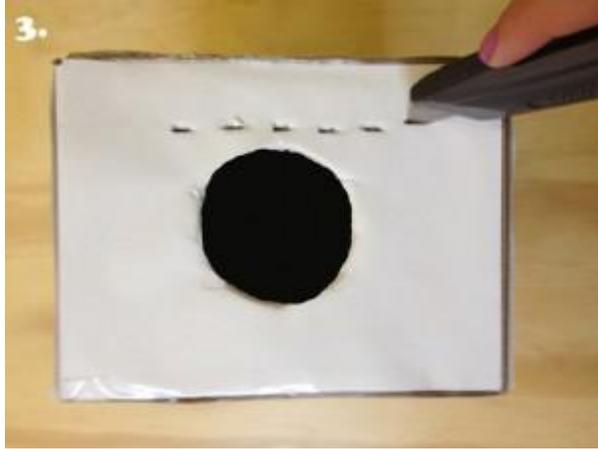
- 1 mailing box or shoebox
 - 1 mailing or paper towel tube (we used an 11 x 2-inch tube)
 - 6 rubber bands (cut in half)
 - 18 solid brass fasteners
 - coffee cup
- Optional:** Construction paper

Instructions:

1. Trace a large circle on the top of your box with a large coffee cup, rim down (this circle can be a little off center as we have below) and cut out the circle.
2. Trace the circumference of the mailing or paper towel tube on the side of your box (about center) and cut out the circle.
3. About 1 inch down from the top of the box, above the mailing tube hole you just cut out, make 6 slits.
4. Repeat step 3 on the opposite side of the box.
5. Decorate your box and mailing tube, making sure not to cover the holes and slits!
6. After decorating the mailing tube, make three slits on each side about $\frac{3}{4}$ an inch apart. Insert brass fasteners in each slit about halfway. Open inside the tube to secure.
7. Insert tube into hole on side of box.
8. Open a brass fastener and wedge the end of a rubber band near the head. Repeat with 5 more fasteners.
9. Insert each fastener through slits made on one side of your box.
10. Repeat step 9 with remaining rubber band ends and insert fasteners into the opposite side's slits.



3.



4.



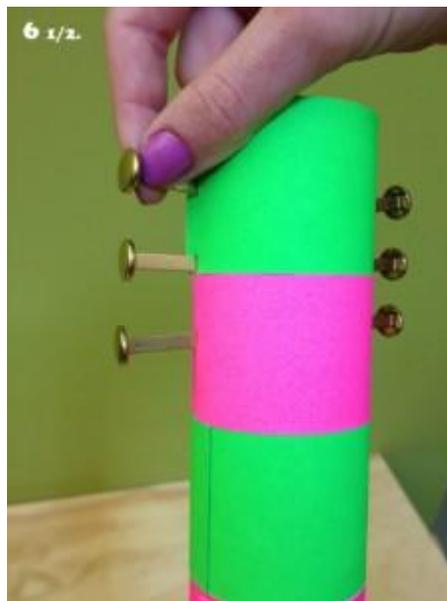
5.



6.



6 1/2.



7.





Make a Roman Lyre

Using scissors, cut a hole slightly off-centre on the top of an empty shoebox. Make the hole around 3 inches in diameter. Push 12 brass fasteners into the shoebox, placing six on one end and six on the other end. Space the brads out evenly. Cut

six rubber bands in half so they become six long rubber band strings. For each rubber band string, tie one end to a brad, then stretch it across the hole, tying the other end to the opposite brad.

Cut open an empty toilet paper roll, and slip it underneath one side of the strings, lifting them up slightly. Your Roman lyre is now complete.



Lyre



You can make a lyre like this one with a coat hanger, rubber bands (or yarn) and a metal bowl or pie plate. Really the strings should run over the top of the bowl, so that the bowl will work as a resonator to make the music sound louder when you pluck the strings. This student painted the inside of the bowl to look like a turtle shell, as in the story of Hermes making the first lyre out of a turtle shell.



DRUM

Let kids create some music of their own with some simple **Tin Can Drums**. This fun activity inspires creativity not only in the creation of the instrument, but in the hours they'll spend banging on the drums after!

All you need to create your own coffee can drums are some old coffee cans or oatmeal container, balloons, scissors, and some packing tape.

Cut the nozzle off the balloons and stretch them around the can. We double layered the balloons for durability and cut the top layer for a fun effect. Tape them in place, and your kids are ready to make music!



Tambourines



Materials:

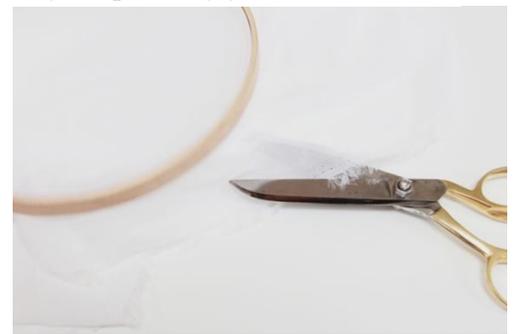
Embroidery Hoops
Jingle Bells
E6000 glue
Fabric of your choice
Optional- stickers, paper embellishments



Directions:

You can use ANY fun fabric you like that would match your theme or your child's favorite toy. How about a pink one? ;) Or you can use a plain fabric and decorate it yourself- I used a sheer cream fabric and used stickers and glued on paper feathers I made to fit the theme of the party.

Unscrew the embroidery hoop and lay your fabric in between the embroidery hoops (which is kind of hard to see here since I used sheer fabric... sorry folks!)



Cut excess fabric off. Tighten the screw on top of the hoop.



Glue the bells onto the sides of the hoop, I used 6 bells per tambourine.

Decorate your fabric (or not if you chose a fun design already!)

I did not glue the fabric to the embroidery hoop, so it would be easy to change the fabric out!



Rainsticks are neat instruments that make unique sounds. Rainsticks are hollow tubes that are filled with objects such as small rocks that create musical sounds when they are turned upside down. In this fun activity, you will get to make your own rainstick and enjoy the musical sounds it makes!

What You Need:

- Brown marker (and other colored markers if desired)
- Aluminum foil
- Long tube of cardboard
- Dried beans or rice or seeds
- Masking tape

What You Do:

1. If the tube already has two circular pieces on the ends, remove one of them. If the tube has nothing on the ends, you will need to seal off one of the ends so that you can pour in the beans without them falling through. Take some pieces of tape and stick them to each other so that you have two nonsticky surfaces. Now, take the pad of tape and attach it to one end of the tube.
2. Ask your child to pour some beans into the tube. Try shaking the tube up and down a little to hear how the beans sound inside the tube. Let your child add more beans if desired.
3. Next, repeat step one on the other side of the tube to seal it off so that the beans cannot get out, or seal the tube off using the plastic ends it came with if you have them.
4. Let your child turn the tube upside down and let the beans fall through the tube. Have her try turning it over slowly, and then quickly to hear the difference in the sound it makes.
5. In order to get a different sound, you can open up the tube and place a few pieces of crumpled aluminum foil into the tube. This will slow down the beans as they move through the tube.
6. Try out the sounds with the new rainstick set up by flipping it over again.
7. Next you can decorate the outside of the tube with the colored markers to complete your rainstick!

Mini Lyre

You will need:

- Jumbo craft sticks – one per banjo
- Loom Bands – four per banjo
- Washi tape
- Duct tape
- Sequins
- Craft glue

How to:

Place four loom bands over the lid and secure place with a piece of duct tape as shown (I did hot glue gun for a more seamless finish but guess what? the loom bands melted and snapped as soon as they touched the hot glue – whoops!)



in
try



Next cut the end from your jumbo craft stick and decorate it with a washi tape pattern.

Now attach the lid with loom bands in place to the craft stick with a second piece of duct tape.

Finally use small dabs of craft glue to stick on your sequins, or alternatively use plastic gems or a marker to draw the little tuning knobs on the end of your banjo handle.



That's all! The sound is less amazing than I'd hoped for but they do look cute and that's the most important thing don't you think?



Systra



This is really easy. Get a sturdy cardboard tube. Pierce holes at regular intervals round the outside. Using a needle and thread attach bells to tube. Hey presto...a cheap and very cool little instrument.

Use a paper towel roll or toilet roll tube but it may not last as long. Wrapping paper tubes would also work pretty well. I used a fairly thick thread to attach the bells to the tube. Please bear in mind they do come off from time to time so take care around little ones.



Lyre Strummies

I had one set of left-over Dollar Store gift boxes that were perfect for individual sized strummies. Each child started by designing the top or bottom of a gift box or shoe box with markers.

Next the children added rubber bands around the boxes to create the strings for the strummies. The children discovered that the smaller the rubber bands, the better the sound so they sorted through all sizes of rubber bands to find the smallest ones available.

Once the children added strings (rubberbands) on their boxes, they now had their very own strummies to play. The children chose for themselves how many strings their strummy would have.

To play a strummy, you simply pluck or strum your finger across the strings. Before heading off to make our strummies, the children explored a set of strummies I had already made and we talked together about the different sounds the strummy makes when you strum versus pluck the strings of the strummie

We also learned that if we held the back of our strummies up to our ears while plucking the strings, we could feel and hear the vibrations. The strummies were super loud when we held them up to our ears to play and super quiet when we held them in our laps to play.

SHAKERS



Although you can use any type of small plastic bottles, the 8 oz (236 mL) size water bottles are just perfect for this project in size and shape. If you've sworn off plastic, then ask around. A neighbor, classmate or local store may offer you what they might have sent out as recycling.

You'll also need two toilet paper rolls and some sturdy tape. Electrical tape works best and colorful electrical tape adds a nice decorative touch to what you are creating.

Then you'll need some fillings. Remember each filling produces a different sound, so that may also be part of your plan for creating your set of maracas. For instance, sand or salt maracas will be very quiet. Dried beans, macaroni or large bead maracas will be nice and loud. Here are some suggestions that you can find around most every household:

Sand, salt, pebbles, birdseed, rice, beans, small beads, large beads, dried pasta, rice, dried peas or beans, small washers, paper clips, small erasers.

A complete supply list is provided below as well as some suggestions for great sounding maraca combinations.

Make Your Maracas

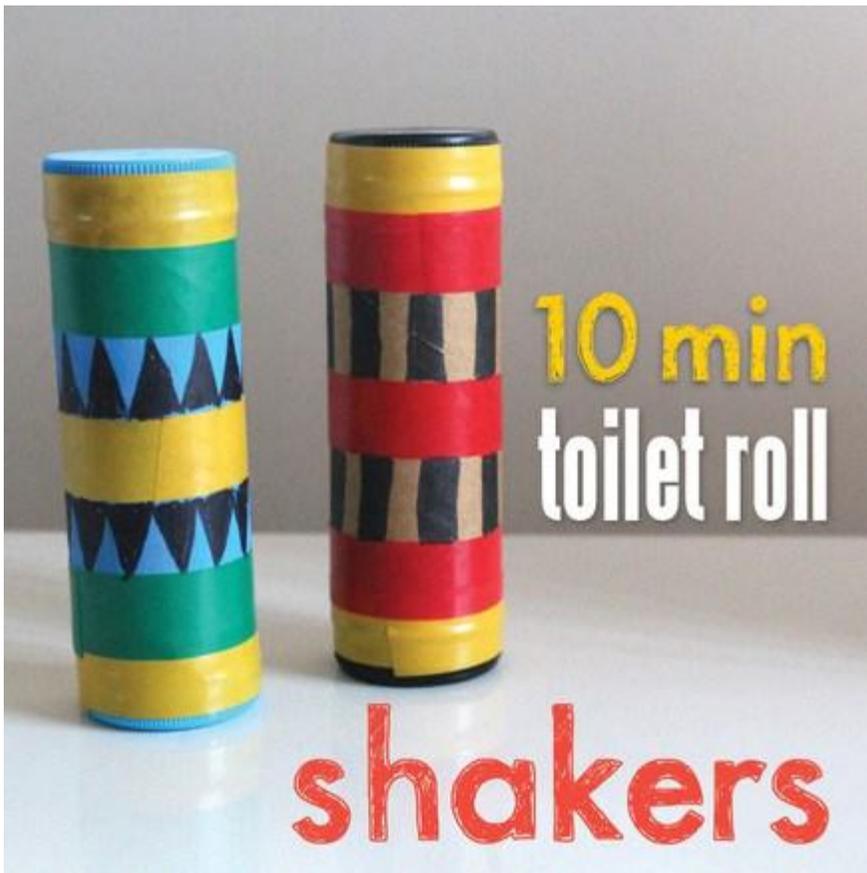
First take your clean and dried 8 oz water bottle and fill with your chosen contents. Close it up with the cap and then listen to the sound. Once it sounds good to your ears, then you can move to the next step. But first, check out how many professional maracas are made – they are created to be slightly different in sound.

Many sets of maracas are "pitched" differently. In other words, shaking the right hand one will sound different from shaking the left hand one, so you can create some great patterns by playing with the sounds. For instance, if you make my version of rice and beans maracas (described below), the rice will be sound a bit softer and higher in pitch, the beans a bit louder and lower in pitch, so you can build rhythms on those sounds. You can also describe the rhythms in a fun way, such as rice, rice, beans, rice, rice beans or rice, beans, rice, rice beans. Almost anyone can learn new rhythms and even complicated rhythm patterns with this creative approach.



So, now you've decided how you want your pair of maracas to sound and you've tightened the cap on your two water bottles. The next step is to create the handle. Take your two toilet paper rolls and make a straight cut from one end to the other. Tighten the roll in on itself to about the size of a 3/4 inch dowel and then apply your electrical tape. Start wrapping the tape around the bottom part of the rattle on the bottle and move down onto the new handle. Wrap slowly, covering all the cardboard of the toilet paper roll and you will have created a rather sturdy handle for your new instrument.

Now you are ready to play.



Last week my daughter came home from pre-school showing off a fancy toilet roll shaker she had made. She danced around the house shaking it with a huge smile on her face for quite a while. My youngest daughter goes to the same preschool but is in a different class and didn't get to make a shaker, so quite understandably she was green with envy. Fights ensued and I'm sure you get the picture without further details. To keep her happy we decided it would be fun to make her a shaker too, and we did ours a little bit differently to the pre school

versions (however beautiful they were). Seriously, you can make these in 10 mins or less with items you likely have on hand, here's how ...



You will need

- Toilet rolls (1 per shaker)
- Duct or electrical tape
- Milk bottle caps (2 per shaker)
- Black marker
- Dried beans, rice, coffee beans or similar to make the shaking sound
- Paints if desired, although they aren't really necessary

You can use painted or plain toilet rolls. Painted will need to be done before hand.

Stick a milk bottle cap on to the end of a toilet roll with electrical (or duct) tape.

Fill your toilet roll with the dried beans (we used coffee beans and rice in ours).





Tape another lid on to the other end of the toilet roll enclosing the beans. Make patterns by adding extra stripes of tape in another color.

Finish it off by decorating in between the tape gaps with a black marker.

The kids can help out with these and make their own patterns.



SYSTRA

You will need:

- some stiff cardboard
- some flexible thin cardboard (an old cereal box is ideal)
- glue, scissors
- gold paint
- pipecleaners or thin metal wire
- jangly things – we used some bells from the craft shop and some buttons.
-



Cut out two handles from the thick cardboard and stick them together to make the handle stronger.



Cut out a long thin strip from the flexible card. Make a slit at both ends so that it will slot onto the sticking out bits on the handle. Check that it will make a loop. Carefully make a couple of small holes in the both sides of the strip. Thread a pipe cleaner or a piece of wire through a hole on one side and fix it in place with some sticky tape. Thread your jangly things onto the wire and then put it through the holes on the other side. Tape them in place too.

You can spray the whole thing gold if you fancy or just get playing. Ours sounded very different – one jingly and one sort of clackety.



DRUM

1. Gather your materials. For this method, you will need an empty cylindrical container, electrical tape or masking tape, construction paper, crayons or colored pencils (optional), two pencils (optional), and tissue paper (optional).

For the container, you can use a coffee container, a popcorn tin, or an aluminum can. This is going to be the base of the drum, so look for a container that is clean and in good condition.

2. Criss-cross strips of tape over the top of the container until it is completely covered. This is going to form the top of the drum, which needs to be sturdy and firm.

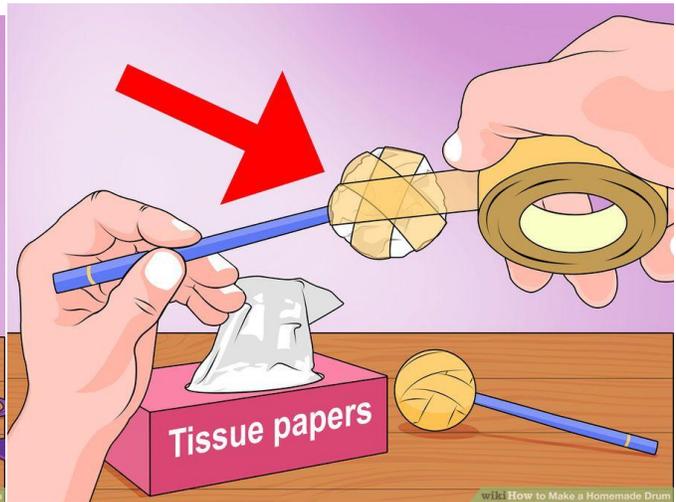
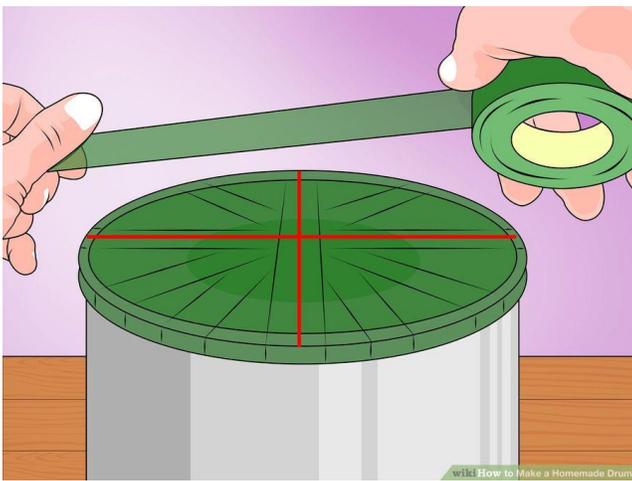
Try to put at least one to two layers of tape on the top of the can and criss-cross the tape tightly to make the drum more durable.

3. Measure the paper by wrapping it around the can. Then, cut the construction paper so it will fit around the container snugly. Tape the paper in place and trim away the excess paper.

4. Decorate the drum. Or, let your little one decorate the drum using markers, crayons, or paint.

You can also cut out shapes from other construction paper and attach them onto the side of the drum.

5. Make a pair of drumsticks. Crumple up a piece of tissue paper on the end of a pencil. Wrap masking tape or electrical tape around the tissue ball so it is secured to the pencil. Repeat this method on another pencil.



PAN PIPES

Children love to play instruments and there are many you can make at home.
This is a simple wind pipe that children can make in just a few minutes.

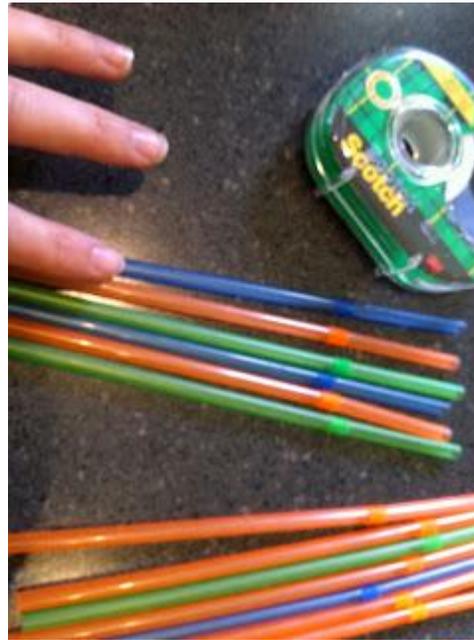
With the straws we had there was an opportunity to discuss patterns and order.

Simply lay out a line of sticky tape with the sticky part facing UP.

Lay each of the straws on the sticky tape.

Fasten the straws with the tape.

Cut one end of the straws on a diagonal. This will give the straws various lengths. And there you have your wind pipe instrument. Children can clearly hear their breath change as it passes through each



straw.

