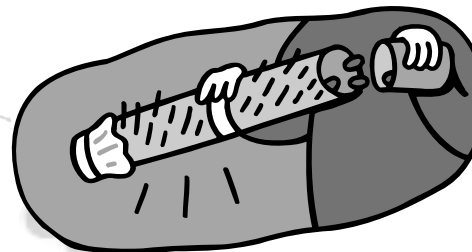
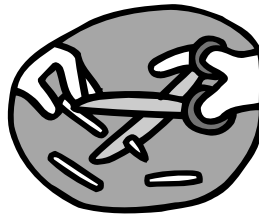


What You Need: 1/2–1 cup of small dried beans, like lentils or black beans • masking tape • 2 paper towel tubes that are the same size • plastic wrap • pushpin • 2 rubber bands • scissors • about 100 toothpicks

Rainstick

Groove to the mellow sounds of rain with this musical instrument from Africa and South America. Originally it was made by filling a cactus branch with pebbles and pressing the thorns inside.



Try it Out!

- 1 Tape the paper towel tubes together with masking tape so they make one long tube. You might want to decorate your tube.
- 2 Make holes in the entire tube with a pushpin. Keep the holes about 1/2–1 inch apart. The holes should go around the tube in a spiral shape. (The more holes and toothpicks you put in, the more it will sound like rain.)
- 3 Blunt one end of the toothpicks by cutting them off with scissors.
- 4 Insert the pointy ends of the toothpicks into the pinholes and press them into the tube as far as they will go.
- 5 Cover one end of the tube with folded plastic wrap. Hold it in place with a rubber band.
- 6 Pour the beans into the open end of the tube.
- 7 Cover the open end of the tube with folded plastic wrap and put a rubber band around it. Now tilt the rainstick up and down to hear the rain.

What different sounds can you make if you change the tubes or the fillings? Can you use other stuff around your house to make the sound of thunder? Or wind? Tell us all about it at ZOOM, Box 350, Boston, MA 02134, or www.pbs.org/zoom.



sent in by Rebecca S. of Larchmont, NY.



Are there other things around your house that you can use to make an instrument? Try it! Or can your body be used as an instrument? Try making different sounds with your feet, hands, or other parts of your body. Put all those sounds together to create a tune. Ask your friends to join the fun and create a band using instruments made from household materials and the sounds you can make with your body!



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