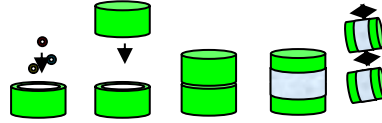


Maraca Caps

Exploring Sound and Rhythm while Shaking Things Up!



Explore rhythms using these simple maracas in an activity that appeals to students who learn by listening and to students who learn by doing.

Activity Challenge

Create maracas out of bottle caps and observe the music they make.

Preparation

Review the Materials Needed list and collect materials.

To Do

Caution – if a maraca comes apart during use, the small pieces could then present a choking hazard. ADULT SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED.

1. Place a mixture of a few beads, paper clips, and/or beans, and a little salt into a cap. Leave enough room for them to move around freely.
2. Place an empty cap on top, so that the openings meet, (as shown above).
3. Wrap tape around the caps to join the caps together, enclosing the objects inside.
4. Repeat steps 1 to 3 to assemble a second maraca.
5. Hold a maraca in each hand and shake both sharply to make a variety of sounds and rhythms.

Observations

Compare the maraca sounds to different musical instruments. How are they alike? How are they different?

Extensions

1. Play different rhythms with the maracas for others to copy.
2. Create more maracas with other objects around the house. Do different objects change the sound? How?
3. Investigate sound and instruments with some other RAFT Idea sheets, including [Sound Shakers](#), [Straw Oboes](#), [Glove-a-Phone](#), and [Pan Pipes](#).

The Science behind the Activity

Sound is caused by vibrations that travel in compression waves through the air (the medium) and into the ear. After hitting the eardrum, the vibration is transmitted through bone, fluid, and hair movements until nerve impulses are sent to the brain's auditory cortex to be analyzed and interpreted.

Materials Needed

- o 4 bottle caps
- o Small pony beads, paper clips, salt, dry beans, or other small hard objects
- o Tape (sticky)

Grade Range

Pre-K

Topics/Skills

Sound; Instruments; Rhythm

Learning Standards

NGSS: [Waves and Their Applications](#)
[National Music Standards](#)

Duration

20 minutes

Prep Time

5 minutes