

recycle-more schools activities

5-7



musical instruments

Learn to make simple musical instruments by recycling some of your rubbish and explore the world of sound.

What you need

Empty bottles, cereal boxes, yoghurt pots, plastic cartons, foil, elastic bands, dried rice and pasta, sand, and sticky tape.

What to do

1. Think about which instrument you want to make. What about a shaker or elastic band guitar?
2. Choose your materials – look for things that you think will make an interesting sound when you shake or hit them.
3. Make shakers by sticking two yoghurt pots together and putting dried rice or pasta inside, or by filling plastic bottles with sand.
4. Make a scraper out of a ridged plastic bottle and a stick.
5. Make a guitar by stretching elastic bands over an empty tissue box or plastic pipe.
6. Fill glass bottles with water and blow across them to make a musical instrument.
7. Decorate all your instruments using coloured paper and glitter.
8. Perform a song using your instruments – try to think of something about recycling. Maybe you could do a ‘rubbish rap’?
9. Perform a story using your instruments. You could also use the plastic bottle puppets to help you



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Discussion

1. What is your favourite sound? Why?
2. Tell the class about your instrument. What kind of sound does it make? How did you make it? How is it played? How could it be improved?
3. Look at real instruments and compare them with the ones you have made.

