

## Exploring Sound with a Homemade Kazoo

### Materials

Cardboard tube (old toilet paper roll or paper towel roll)

Wax paper

Rubberband

Sharp pencil (or other sharp object) to poke holes

Paint or other art supplies to decorate your kazoo (optional)



### Directions

1. Cover the end of your cardboard tube with wax paper. Secure it with a rubberband.
2. Poke a hole in the side of the tube using the sharp pencil or other sharp object.
3. Put the open end of the tube up to your mouth and hum or say “do” over and over and to make the kazoo sound.



4. Optional: Paint your kazoo!



### Variations:

1. Try varying the length of the kazoo using different sized tubes. Do they sound the same or different?
2. Poke more holes in the sides of your kazoo. Does covering the holes change the sounds you make?
3. Try changing the material you cover your tube with (saran wrap or parchment paper for instance.) Do any other materials work better? Why or why not?

## **Homemade Maracas**

### SUPPLIES (for one pair of maracas)

2 eight oz (236 mL) water bottles

2 toilet paper rolls

Electrical tape (colorful, if possible)

Filling for your maracas – any of the following:

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

1. Fill water bottles with desired materials and shake with top on to make sure you like the sound.
2. Next, create the handle. Take the two toilet paper rolls and make a straight cut from one end to the other. Tighten the roll in on itself around the opening of the water bottle. Start wrapping the tape around the opening of 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.



### **GREAT-SOUNDING COMBINATIONS FOR MARACAS**

#### Rice and Beans Maracas

Rice in one maraca, beans in the other. The color and the sound are different, making it really easy to create patterns.

#### “Back To School” Maracas

Colorful paper clips in one, small extra erasers in the other. A nice difference in the sound between the right and left hand.

#### Sand and Little Pasta Maracas:

These are really quiet and subtle. The sand or salt maraca is softer than the tiny pasta (choose pastina or orzo pasta) making this a great choice for kids that want to learn to listen, kids with noise sensitivity or for learning some of the aspects of playing a percussion instrument quietly but effectively.