Making Musical Instruments

What You Need
- Cardboard tube
- Waxed paper
- Paper cup
- Hole punch
- Rubber band
- Sharpened pencil
- Scissors
- Paper clip
- String
- Wet paper towel
- Coffee can
- Beans
- String

Find Out
Do this activity to see how different instruments sound.

Process Skills
Observing
Communicating

Time
- 1 hour to make musical instruments
- 40 minutes to play instruments and record sound
What To Do

1. Make a kazoo. Punch a hole in the cardboard tube. Cover the end of the tube with a piece of waxed paper. Put the rubber band around the tube.

   **Safety!** Be careful with sharp objects and rubber bands.

2. Make a musical cup. Punch a hole in the bottom of the cup with a sharpened pencil. Put a piece of string into the hole. Tie a paper clip to the end of the string and pull the other end of the string through the hole. Wet the string with a wet paper towel.

3. Make a shaker. Fill a can with beans. Put the lid on the can.

4. Play each instrument. **Observe** and **record** what you hear.

5. Play the kazoo first. Next, make a sound with the shaker. Then play the musical cup.

6. To play the cup, hold it in one hand and use the fingers of your other hand to pull down on the string.
Circle *loud* or *soft* to describe the volume.

Circle *high* or *low* to describe the pitch.

**Write** the name of something that sounds like the musical instrument.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Musical Instrument</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Pitch</th>
<th>Sounded Like…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kazoo</td>
<td>loud</td>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>soft</td>
<td>low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>musical cup</td>
<td>loud</td>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>soft</td>
<td>low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shaker</td>
<td>loud</td>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>soft</td>
<td>low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

1. Which musical instrument had the loudest volume?

2. How did the instruments sound alike?
   How did the instruments sound different?

New Questions

1. What could you do to change the way each instrument sounded?

2. Write a new question you have about sound.
Name __________________________

**ACTIVITY**

**Making Sound with a Drum**

**Draw** a picture of your drum.
What Happened

1. How do you make a sound with your drum?

2. What part of the drum vibrates?

What If

What are other ways that you could make sound with your drum?
Activity Journal
Lesson 2 • Volume

Name ____________________________

ACTIVITY

Changing Volume

Record what happened to the sound when you added the cup.

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Predict what would happen if you covered the cup with your hand while you blew into the straw.

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
What Happened

1. Which time was the sound loudest?

2. What caused the sound to be louder?

What If

How could you make the sound even louder?
**Activity Journal**

**Lesson 3 • Pitch**

**Making a Bottle Instrument**

**Draw** how much water is in each bottle.

**Predict** which bottle will make the highest sound when you tap it. **Write** an H on that bottle.

**Circle** the bottle that made the highest sound when it was tapped.
Activity Journal
Lesson 3 • Pitch

Name ____________________________

What Happened

1. What did you notice about the amount of water in each bottle and the noise it made?

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. What is vibrating to make the sounds?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What If

What would happen to the sounds if you added more water to each bottle?

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________________________________________________________________________