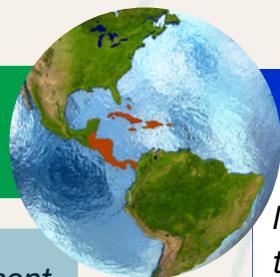
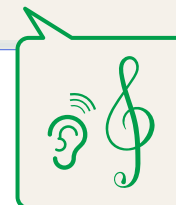


Making Maracas



Global Links



Maracas are a kind of hand instrument which are usually played in pairs. They are sometimes called a Rumba Shaker or Chac-Chac.

They appear in many different types of Hispanic and Caribbean music. Originally Maracas were made by the Brazilian Indigenous peoples from Gourds or Calabash fruits. They were also used by community healers in dances, to heal the sick and in religious chants and ceremonies.

Maracas are a type of rattle. Rattles similar to them have been used for thousands of years in many cultures; African, Pacific Island and the Americas.

While Maracas are usually found in Hispanic music, the way they are played differs greatly across different cultures. In Afro-Puerto Rican music, one Maraca is usually higher pitch, and the other is lower. In Cuban music, Maracas are generally used to keep the beat.

Musicians worldwide have also experimented and adopted the Maracas into different musical genres, such as the Rock and Roll pioneer, Bo Diddley.



Vocabulary

Music (n)



Música

Shake (v)



Batir

To make (v)



Hacer

Curriculum Links

Music , Design and Technologies

Music

Maracas Rattles



Two small plastic bottles, any size



Two toilet paper tubes (or card rolled into this shape)



Coloured tape (clear is also fine)



Scissors



1 cup of beans/pulses

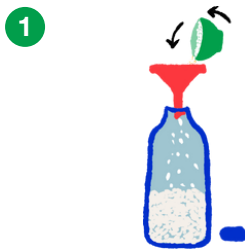


1 cup of rice

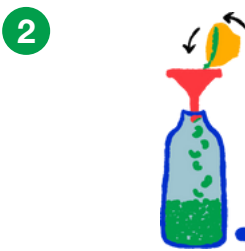


1 funnel

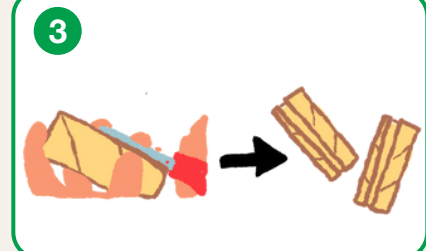
Method



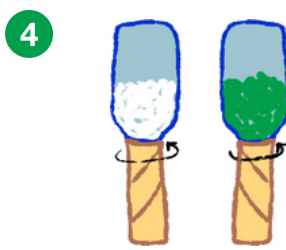
1 Take the first bottle and fill it half way with the rice, using the funnel. Put the lid back on and shake it!



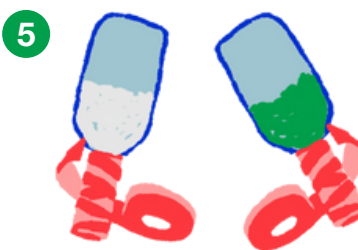
2 Repeat with the second bottle and beans/pulses



3 Take the toilet roll and cut it from top to bottom.



4 Then roll the toilet roll around the top of the bottle around the lid, tightening it so it fits tightly as a handle



5 Use the tape to connect the toilet roll handle to the bottle. Repeat for the second bottle.



6 Now decorate the bottles with the tape by sticking it up and down the bottles in your own designs.



Explore!

Change the sound the Maracas makes by adding more or less beans, pulses, rice.

Different fillings will make different sounds, so have fun experimenting and see if you can create different types of sounds and pitches from different filling materials.

Try making rattles or shakers out of other materials. Explore how different shapes and materials change the sounds they make.



[Maracas Rattles video:](#)



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