

Egg-stra Cool Recycled Maracas

Recycle your plastic eggs or small water bottles and get into the rhythm of springtime! Make your own pair of maracas and start up a band.

Maracas are a type of percussion instrument called idiophones, or vibrating instruments that produce sound when they are struck, shaken or scraped. Maracas were first made in Puerto Rico by hollowing out the round fruit from a native higuera tree, drying the shell of the fruit, filling it with tiny pebbles and attaching a handle. Maracas are most often used to make music in pairs.

Create your own pair of maracas using recycled plastic eggs or small water bottles that will hold different music making materials.

Experiment. Try using different music making materials in your holding container and choose the materials that make the most interesting sounds for your maracas. Does the sound of the maracas change if you use more or less of the materials? What happens when you mix the materials? Try it out.

YOU WILL NEED

Music making materials (examples: dried beans, dried rice, popcorn kernels, beads or pebbles)
2 Holding containers (examples: recycled plastic eggs or small water bottles)
2 Handles (examples: plastic spoons or paper rolls)
Crayons
Markers
Tape
Other creativity tools and supplies

STEPS

1. Research different types of maracas used by musicians around the world. Talk with your child about these instruments, what they are made of, where they can be found, and what they sound like.
2. Go on a materials hunt around your home and choose materials to make your own maracas.
3. Fill the holding container with music making materials.
4. Once you've selected your materials and filled the holding containers, seal the materials inside using tape.
5. Securely attach handles to each side of your maracas using tape.
6. Decorate your pair of maracas using markers, crayons and other favorite creativity tools and supplies.
7. Shake, rattle and roll!

