



Make Your Own Rainstick!

In many cultures, summoning rain often included the use of musical instruments. One well-known example is a rainstick, an instrument that mimics the sound of rain. They are traditionally made from dead cactus tubes with cactus spines hammered to the inside and filled with tiny pebbles. This very special set of instructions comes to us from our friends at the Mundi Project.

Materials:

- Cardboard tube (Paper towel tube, tube from inside of foil, etc.)
- 2 brown paper grocery sacks
- Aluminum foil
- Wooden spoon
- Two rubber bands
- Construction paper
- 1/3 cup rice (or beans, etc.)
- Ruler
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Funnel (Optional)

Steps:

1. Cover cardboard tube with paper bag. Glue in place.
2. Pull out two pieces of foil that are the same length as your tube.
3. Holding your foil pieces lengthwise roll them and scrunch them up into two snakes.
4. Coil the foil pieces around your wooden spoon. Coil them one at a time and then set them aside.
5. Cut two round “caps” from your brown paper sacks for the ends of your rainstick. Go bigger rather than smaller, making sure that your “caps” will securely cover your tube ends.
6. Put one cap over one end of your tube, securing it in place with a rubber band.
7. Drop your foil coils into your tube from the other end so they stack on top of each other.
8. Pour in your 1/3 cup of rice.
9. Put your other “cap” in place over the other end, securing with a rubber band.
10. Cut “fringe” in your cap ends by making slits on the part of the paper sack that is below the rubber band on each end.
11. Add a few dots of glue underneath the “fringe” on your end caps, glueing them to your cardboard tube. (This will help your rice stay inside!)
12. Cut rectangular “bands” out of your construction paper and glue them on top of the rubber bands on each end.
13. Decorate more if desired using stickers, paint, or paper. Slowly turn your rainstick into a vertical position to hear the sound of rain. Enjoy!



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