

Celebrations Around the World

Bring It Home: Drums

The drum is a rhythmic instrument that dates back to nearly 6000 B.C. Almost all cultures throughout civilization have had some form of the drum in their history. The rhythmic beat of the drum has been used to accompany ceremonial dance and celebrations and has also been used to express meaning and feeling for many cultures. Ancient drums were made from a hollowed out log or gourd with a piece of animal skin stretched over top. The size and shape of the log or gourd influenced the sound of the drum.

The drum has significant history within African cultures as it was used for religious practices and rituals. The Japanese used the drum to motivate its soldiers and set the pace while marching. Drum kits evolved when people discovered that more than one drum could be played at a time. At one time, the drum kit included cow bells, wooden blocks and chimes. In the 1950's the drum kit changed to keep to the time of Rock and Roll. Electronic drums of today allow for all kinds of creativity.

Materials:

- Oatmeal or coffee container
- Wax paper
- Large rubber bands
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Sequins, ribbon
- Glue
- Scissors
- Two unsharpened pencils or chopsticks

Get Started:

1. Take the lid off of your container. The container will be the base of the drum.
2. Cut a circle of wax paper that is two inches in diameter larger than the base of your container. This will be the surface you beat with your sticks.
3. Stretch the wax paper over the open end of your container. Wrap your rubber bands around the rim.
4. Cover the outside of your container with construction paper and glue.
5. Decorate with markers, scissors and ribbon.



6. Allow time for the glue to dry. Play with pencils or chopsticks!!

Keep it Going

Explore the variety of drum sounds by changing the surface material on the top of your drum. Cover your drum with brown paper bagging or sticky wax paper.

Try tapping your drum sticks on different surfaces as well. What drum sounds can you make on wood, plastic or glass?

Resources for learning more about drums:

Childrens books:

Sosu's Call by Meshack Asare

Drum Chavi Drum by Mayra Lazara Dole

I see the rhythm by Toyomi Igus

Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney

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