



Things to make and do



ANCIENT INSTRUMENT

People in Chile, South America, made maracas using hollowed-out gourds as early as 500BC.

Make maracas

Give the gift of music this month with this fun craft project.

What you need

- Fillable plastic egg (you could recycle one from an old sweet or toy)
- Uncooked rice or hard lentils
- Two disposable spoons (we used recycled plastic but you could also use wooden ones)
- Sticky tape
- Kitchen foil
- Colourful sticky tape

How does it work?

Sound is created when objects vibrate. When you shake your maracas, the rice or lentils bash against the inside of the egg. This causes the surrounding air to vibrate and the disturbance spreads out in the form of a wave – a bit like a ripple in a pond. When the wave hits your eardrums, they vibrate in turn, stimulating nerve endings in your inner ear. Your brain interprets this movement as sound.

TOP TIP

Experiment with putting different fillings inside your maracas to see how it changes the sound they make.



1 Half-fill the egg with uncooked rice or lentils and close the lid. Be careful not to overfill it because this will reduce the space inside the egg and limit the noise the grains can make.



2 Place a spoon on either side of the egg and wrap tape around to hold them together.



3 Lay the spoons on a piece of foil cut to the right size. Then wrap the foil around so it completely covers the maraca.



4 Decorate your maraca by wrapping coloured sticky tape around the foil. Why not make more than one and give them away as presents?

REX SHUTTERSTOCK