



Rainstick Kit

Item # 1429069

Enough Materials for 25 Students

Grades K-12

The people who live in the Atacama desert, in northern Chile, have made use of the dried husks of the Capado cactus to create "rain sticks". The sticks when turned upside down, make sounds like rainfall. They are used in ceremonies to bring rain to dry land. The cactus has a membrane which, when the cactus is dried, creates a mesh inside the hollow husk. Nails are pounded in from the sides and small pebbles are inserted and sealed inside the husk. The pebbles running over the nails and membrane create the "whoosh" sound of water. This project is an adaptation of the traditional rain stick using easily accessible materials.

Materials in Kit

- Item #2095555 Cardboard Mailing Tubes, 2 dia." x 24"L, 25
- Item #1006284 Round Toothpicks, 4 packs of 800 toothpicks
- Item #801337 Tru-Ray® Construction Paper, Gray, 18" x 24", 50 sheets
- Item #2020304 Natural Jute Twine, 3 Ply, 219', 2 Rolls
- Item #2023203 Creativity Street® Old World Acrylic Beads, 1lb. Pack
- Item #085937 Creativity Street® Natural Feathers Classroom Pack, 1 pack of approximately 200 feathers
- Item #1006288 Roylco® Colored Rice, Assorted Colors, 1 lb.

You will also need:

- Broad-line Markers
- Tempera Paint & Brushes
- Push Pins (to pierce cardboard tube)
- Pliers/Hammer
- Yarn
- Raffia
- Glue

Objectives

- Students will examine the tradition of the Chilean rain stick and create a replica of one.
- Students will choose from a variety of materials to convey their ideas about the rain stick they create.

Directions:

1. Start at one end of the tube and, using the seam of the tube as a guide, poke holes (using a pushpin or other small tool) approximately 1" apart. Follow the seam to the other end of the tube. There should be a total of 50 - 75 holes.
2. Insert toothpicks in each hole (use hammer to gently pound these in or a pliers to push them in).
3. Use the pliers to break off the ends of the toothpick that are sticking out of the tube.
4. Plug one end of the tube with the endcap.
5. Put a handful of rice into the tube. It may take a few handfuls to achieve desired sound (small pebbles or dried beans would be a suitable substitute for rice).
6. Plug end of the tube with the endcap.

Decorating Tube

1. Cut construction paper in half lengthwise into 9" x 24" sheet.
2. Use markers and/or paint to create desert motifs. Allow for 1½" overlap on the bottom edge of the paper.
3. Glue the paper around the tube so the 1½" of blank paper is overlapping the edge that has the design on it.
4. Using twine, string beads and feathers around the rain stick in a variety of ways.



Cross Curricular: Art and Social Studies

National Standards:

Creating: Anchor Standard #1:
Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Presenting: Anchor Standard #5:
Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.

Connecting: Anchor Standard #11:
Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.