

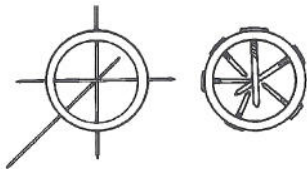
# Build Your Own Rainstick

As people build rainsticks from materials found in the environments in which they live, you too can create your own rainstick with things available within your home.

- What you'll need**
- Cardboard tubes from paper towels, gift wrapping or mailing tubes
  - A tool to punch holes in the tube, such as a drill or awl
  - Small hammer
  - Toothpicks or flat-head nails (1-inch diameter tube, 7/8 inch nail)
  - Glue
  - Masking tape
  - Wire cutters or sturdy scissors
  - "Fill" seeds, pebbles, rice, dried beans, shells, beads and so forth.
  - Materials to decorate the outside of the tube: paint, crayons, sparkles, sand, etc.

## The Steps

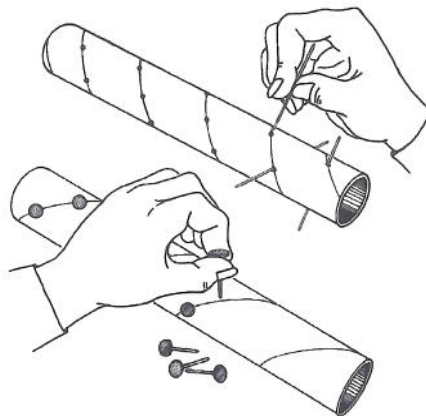
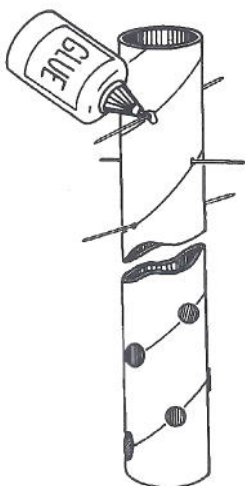
1. Drill or poke holes in the cardboard tube. Be careful not to collapse the tube by pressing too hard. Drill the holes through one side only or all the way through both sides of the tube. If you are using nails, it is not necessary to drill holes.



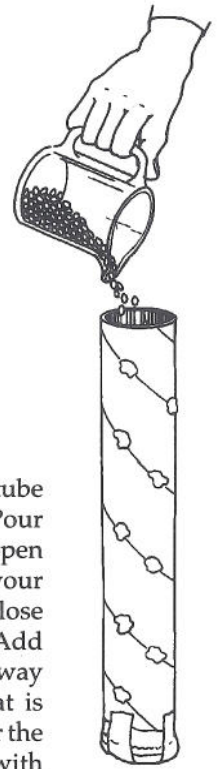
2. Punch the toothpicks through the holes. Leave a little bit of the toothpick (a nub) remaining outside the tube. If holes were drilled straight through the cylinder, push the toothpick all the way through the tube. Inserting the toothpicks to different lengths will produce a variety of sounds.

If you are using nails, insert nails that are slightly shorter than the diameter of the tube in a spiral pattern. A small hammer may be useful.

3. Apply glue to the nubs and allow to dry. Cut off the nubs if they stick out more than 1/4 inch from the tube. Or, seal the nail heads with glue or wrap the entire tube with masking tape.

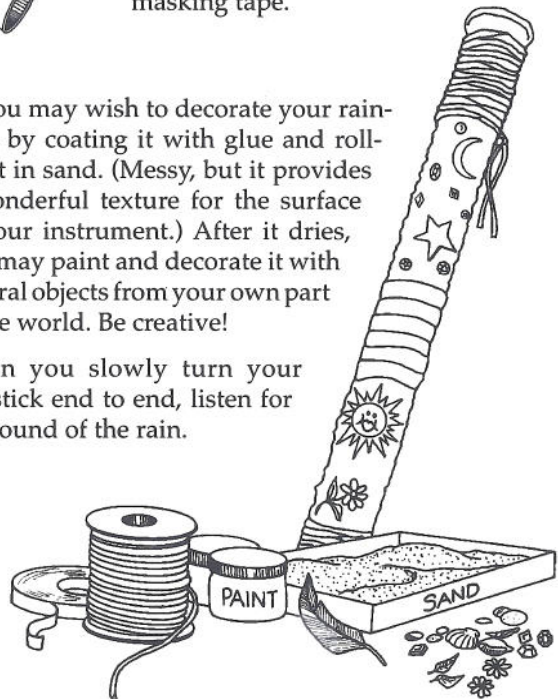


4. Seal one end of the tube with masking tape. Pour in the fill. Cover the open end of the tube with your hand and invert it. Close your eyes and listen. Add more fill or take some away to create a sound that is pleasing to you. Cover the other end of the tube with masking tape.



5. You may wish to decorate your rainstick by coating it with glue and rolling it in sand. (Messy, but it provides a wonderful texture for the surface of your instrument.) After it dries, you may paint and decorate it with natural objects from your own part of the world. Be creative!

When you slowly turn your rainstick end to end, listen for the sound of the rain.



## The Rainstick

Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide

© 1995, Project WET International Foundation and CEE

