

SUBJECT AREAS:

Art

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Creation of musical instruments made from recycled materials.

OBJECTIVES:

- To learn how to create a musical instruments from recycled materials

MATERIALS:

Plastic spoons and surprise eggs, the yogurt, pots legumes, rice or little rocks, glue + colors

GRADE/LEVEL:

Upper Elementary School (12-14)

DURATION:

Preparation time: /

Activity time: 45 min.

PLACE:

Classroom

AUTOR:

Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo
"Danilo Dolci" - Italy

Musical instruments - Maracas

INTRODUCTION:

With recycled materials we can make music. Let's learn how to make some musical instruments out of items that end up in the trash every day.

BACKGROUND:

Teacher can show to students how maracas looks like and how it sound. Maracas are an idiophone-type percussion instrument with an indeterminate sound that originated in South America, where they were made of a hollow gourd filled with stones or dry seeds. The instrument produces its characteristic sound by shaking: the inner grains beat against each other and against the inner wall. After a short presentation of this instrument, teacher can show to students the materials that are present in the classroom for them to make maracas.

Procedure:

Outline: Maracas are a classic DIY musical instrument. They can be made in so many ways.

Instruction: After initial presentation teacher should gave the materials to students and leave them to choose how to make maracas. There are more options for them to choose, teacher should let students explore and give them support and guidelines on how to create instrument.

With disposable cups or yogurt pots - You fill one cup with pulses, rice or rocks, close it with another upside-down cup and tape everything together.

With plastic spoons and surprise eggs - You pair the spoons two by two around the surprise container that will have first been filled with grains of rice, beans or something else, then tape everything together

With toilet paper rolls - Simply fill the empty roll and then close the two ends with colored cardboard or cardboard.

Also the plastic bottles can be used by simply filling the bottle with beans, rice or small rocks.

After making sure the instruments are ready (they make sound) students can decorate and color them.

FUN FACTS:

- *Despite being an instrument and object, maracas can be used to symbolize a celebration or specific cultural holidays like Cinco de Mayo (Fifth of May) and Día de la Independencia (Independence Day of Mexico) in Mexico, or Carnival in Brazil*

ASSESSMENT:

At the end of the lesson teacher will check if all the instruments are working by asking students to play some music with them. It could also be analyzed how differently maracas sound based on the material they are made of and filled with, and the amount of material inside them.

- What can you notice in sound of your maracas?
- Do maracas sound differently on base of what is inside?
- Which other musical instruments can be created from recycled materials?

EVALUATION:

Students are tasked with doing research and writing an essay on what else they can make from recycled paper that can be used in everyday life.