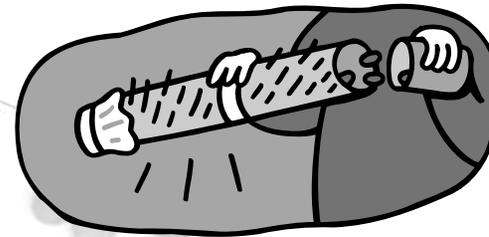
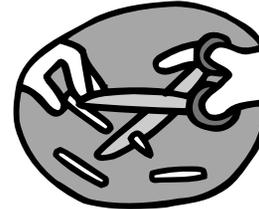




**What You Need:** 1/2–1 cup of small dried beans, like lentils or black beans • masking tape • 2 paper towel tubes that are the same size • plastic wrap • push pin • rubber bands • scissors • about 100 toothpicks

# Rainstick

Groove to the mellow sounds of rain with this musical instrument from Africa and South America. Originally it was made by filling a cactus branch with pebbles and pressing the thorns inside.



**1 Tape** the paper towel tubes together with masking tape so they make one long tube. You might want to decorate your tube before you put holes in it.

**2 Make** holes all around the tube with a push pin. Keep the holes about 1/2–1 inch apart. The holes should go around the tube in a spiral shape. (The more holes and toothpicks you put in, the more it will sound like rain.)

**3 Cut** one end of each toothpick with scissors.

**4 Insert** the pointy ends of the toothpicks into the pinholes and press them into the tube as far as they will go.

**5 Cover** one end of the tube with plastic wrap. Hold it in place with a rubber band.

**6 Pour** the beans into the open end of the tube.

**7 Cover** the open end of the tube with plastic wrap and put a rubber band around it. Now tilt the rainstick up and down to hear the rain.

What different sounds can you make if you change the tubes or the fillings? Can you use other stuff around your house to make the sound of thunder? Or wind? Tell us all about it at ZOOM, Box 350, Boston, MA 02134 or [pbskids.org/zoom](http://pbskids.org/zoom).



Sent in by Rebecca S. of Larchmont, NY



Are there **other things** around your house that you can use to make an instrument? Try it! Or can **your body** be used as an instrument? Try making **different sounds** with your feet, hands, or other parts of your body. Put all those sounds together to **create a tune**. Ask your friends to join the fun and **create a band** using instruments made from household materials and the sounds you can make with your body!



ZOOM is produced by WGBH Boston. Funding for ZOOM is provided by the National Science Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, and public television viewers. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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