



Make your own Rainstick!

In many cultures, summoning rain often included the use of musical instruments. One well-known example is a rainstick, an instrument that mimics the sound of rain. They are traditionally made from dead cactus tubes with cactus spines hammered to the inside and filled with tiny pebbles.

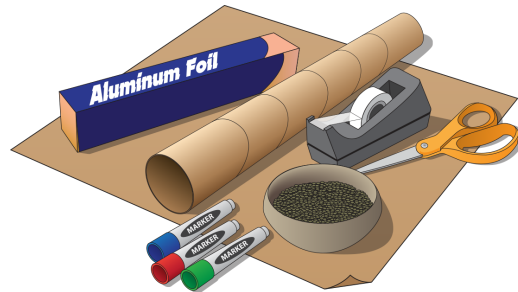


The origin of the rainstick is not fully known, but many people think that it probably came from a group of indigenous people known as the Diaguita from the deserts of northern Chile.

Here you get to build a slightly less traditional rainstick of your own! This one is made from a cardboard tube and aluminum foil.

What you need:

- A long cardboard tube (paper towel or wrapping paper tube). About a two inch diameter is best.
- Aluminum foil
- Small dried lentils, unpopped popcorn, dry rice, or tiny pasta.
- Tape
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers



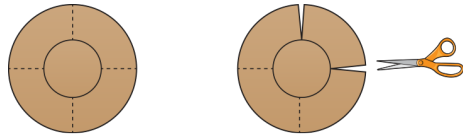
What you do:

1. Trace around the end of your tube onto a piece of brown paper (or construction paper).
2. Draw a circle that is two times bigger than your first circle (around that first circle) and then draw four or so spokes between the two circles.

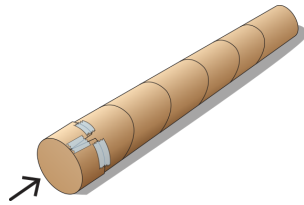
For more information and to find this activity online go to NASA's Climate Kids website: <http://climatekids.nasa.gov/rainstick>.
Find more fun activities at <http://climatekids.nasa.gov/make>.



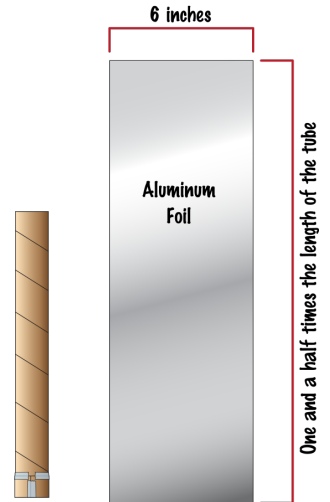
3. Cut along the spokes.



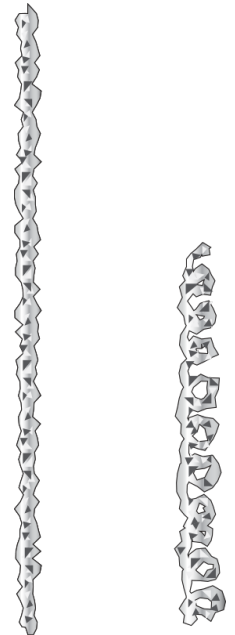
4. Tape the spokes onto one end of your tube.



5. Cut a few pieces of aluminum foil that are about one and half times the length of your tube and about 6 inches wide.



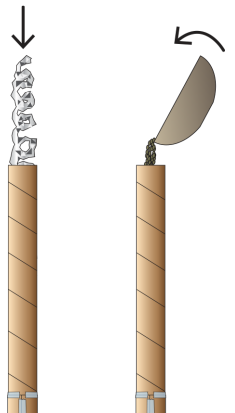
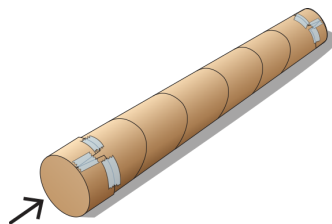
6. Crunch the aluminum foil pieces into long, thin, snake-like shapes. Then twist each one into a spring shape.



7. Put the aluminum foil springs into your tube.

8. Pour some dry beans, dry rice, or unpopped popcorn into your tube. The tube should only be about 1/10 full. You can experiment to see how different amounts and different types of seeds and beans change the sound.

9. Make another cap from brown paper (the same as the first three steps) and cap your tube.



10. Optional: Decorate the tube by covering it with brown paper or construction paper, and then making designs with crayons or markers (or cut-out paper or stickers).