Kids Explore!

Make Rain Drums

Use balloons, recyclables, and rain to create music.

Materials

◆ Various containers from your recycling and trash — tubs and cans of different sizes, etc.

◆ Balloons of different sizes (larger ones work best)

◆ Scissors

◆ Foil, plastic bags or wrap (optional)

◆ Rain

*Adult help may be needed on steps with **

1. Gather a variety of containers of different sizes from your trash and recycling. Things like yogurt or salsa tubs and tuna or bean cans will work well.

2. Cut off the open ends of your balloons so that you have one balloon per container.

*3. Stretch the balloons out over the openings of your containers. They should fit snugly, like the cover of a drum, once you let them go.

4. Take your rain drums outside on a wet day and listen to music made by the rain! Which drums are the loudest? Do different shaped containers make different sounds?

5. If you have some other cover materials, such as foil, try them out on your drums. Do different covers make different sounds?

6. Now close your eyes and listen. Are there other things outside that make music in the rain?

7. For more fun, record your rain drums on a grown-up's phone and bring your music inside. When you play your recorded rain songs, add other instruments and create a concert!

Note: Activity adapted from "Rain Drums" in the book A Little Bit of Dirt *by Asia Citro.*

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