



EARTH DAY RHYTHM BAND PROJECT

This week your music class goal is to create your own percussion instrument with the things you have around you. You can re-use items that would otherwise be thrown away, items you can find in nature, or anything else that you can easily find. Just make sure to check in with an adult at home about what you plan to use **BEFORE** using it to make sure it is okay with them.

You are welcome to look up ideas online for homemade instruments or use one of our ideas listed below, but feel free to come up with your own ideas too! Just keep one very important thing in mind - **PERCUSSION** means an instrument that makes its sound by two objects hitting each other. This could mean rice or beans hitting this inside of a container (like a shaker or maraca) or a stick hitting another stick (like rhythm sticks) or a hand hitting the top of a drum.

IMPORTANT - SAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT! YOU WILL NEED IT NEXT WEEK!

Plastic egg shakers/maracas: take a left over plastic egg from an egg hunt and fill it about $\frac{1}{4}$ full of dried rice or other tiny things. Seal it with tape and shake away. Optional: put two plastic spoons together to hold the egg and tape around the handles to turn your egg into a maraca! You can make any clean, empty container a shaker in a similar way.

Box drum: take an empty box turn it over so the top and sides are firm (you may need to tape up the bottom). Find a couple of thin stick-like objects to use as drum sticks.

Improv hand drum: find any hollow container with strong sides. Stretch some kind of strong material over the top. Secure the top tightly with tape or another way. Tap away with your hands!

Just for fun - if you have made your instrument you can try to turn everyday words, like your name and your friends' and family's names into rhythms and tap them out.