

RAIN STICK

Turn the rain stick to make the sound of falling rain



Rain sticks were invented by indigenous South American tribes and used in the belief they would bring about rain storms to help crops grow. They are traditionally made from sticks of dried cactus but a hollow paper tube works almost as well!

How to make it:

- 1 Begin by painting the cardboard tube. You can make the tube look like a stick of wood or cactus or paint it in vibrant colours – the choice is yours.
- 2 While the paint is drying, cut out two circles of brown paper. For a kitchen paper tube, try drawing around a roll of transparent tape to make an ideal sized circle.
- 3 Scrunch up the brown paper circles to make them pliable and reminiscent of tanned leather. Cover one end of the tube with one of the circles. Secure in place with a rubber band and a little glue. Use scissors to snip a tasselled edge as shown in the photo.
- 4 Take your piece of scrap paper or foil and twist it into a coil roughly the same length as the tube. Push the twist into the tube. Then use the funnel to pour two or three handfuls of rice, lentils or beads into the tube.
- 5 Experiment by upending the tube and listening to the sound it makes (remember to cover the open end with your hand!). Adjust the amount of paper/foil and rice/lentils/beads until you're satisfied you have achieved a good 'rain patter' sound.
- 6 Cover the open end with the other circle of brown paper and secure with a rubber band and glue. Use scissors to cut a tasselled edge as before.
- 7 Finish by cutting a few lengths of coloured yarn and tie them around each end of the rain stick.
- 8 Play the rain stick by slowly turning it in your hand.

You will need:

- Long cardboard tube such as a kitchen paper tube or poster roll
- Paints
- Brown paper
- A selection of coloured yarns
- 2 x rubber bands
- Dry rice or lentils or small craft beads
- A twist of scrap paper or foil, about the same length as the tube

Other things you'll need:

- Glue and scissors
- Something circular to draw around such as a roll of transparent tape
- A plastic funnel