

Program Title

Create Your Own Instrument

Purpose of Program

The Build Your Own Instrument program is a craft, art, and/or music program to pair with the book *Matthew Meets the Man* by Travis Nichols. In the story, because he cannot afford to buy himself a drum set, Matthew builds his own using found objects.

Detailed Description of the Program

This program includes instructions to make several different types of musical instruments. Choose as many or as few as you'd like to fit your programs' needs.

Create Your Own... Harmonica

List of Supplies: each instrument requires 2 tongue depressors or Popsicle sticks, 1 thick rubber band, 2 thin rubber bands, cardstock or other thick paper, tape, and scissors.

Instructions: Stack the two tongue depressors on top of each other. Cut the cardstock into a strip about $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and long enough to wrap around the narrow ends of the stacked tongue depressors. Wrap the strips around the narrow end of the sticks and tape the strip together to secure. Repeat the process on the other end of the stick. Remove one of the tongue depressors and set it aside. Take the thick rubber band and wrap it once lengthwise around the tongue depressor, making sure the paper strips stay close to the ends of the harmonica. Now take the other tongue depressor and place it back on top of the harmonica. Wrap a thin rubber band around each narrow end of the harmonica to secure the sticks together. For added flair, the tongue depressors can be decorated before assembling the harmonica. To play, place the harmonica gently between your lips and blow.

Create Your Own... Bottle Cap Shaker

List of Supplies: each instrument requires 1 dowel rod, 6 bottle caps, and 3 small nails. Tools needed are 1 large nail (for punching holes), a hammer.

Instructions: The dowel rods can be decorated (painted, colored with markers, stickers, wrapped in colorful paper) prior to assembling the instrument. Using the larger nail, hammer a hole in the center of each bottle cap. Place the flat sides of two bottle caps together, insert one of the smaller nails through the center hole, and hammer it into the side of the dowel rod. Repeat the process with the remaining bottle caps, nailing them around the end of the dowel rod. To play: Shake the dowel rod in the air.

Create Your Own... Oboe

List of Supplies: each instrument requires 1 straw. That's it! Straws of different widths create different tones, so perhaps have a variety of straws available. Tools needed are a pair of scissors and a straight pin.

Instructions: Flatten out one end of the straw as much as possible. Snip the sides of the flattened end so that the straw has a pointed tip. Using a straight pin, puncture four holes down the length of the straw. To play, place the pointed end of the straw in your mouth and pinch the straw slightly where it meets your lips. Place your fingers

over the holes and blow through the straw, removing and replacing your fingers over the holes as you blow.

Create Your Own... Rain Stick

List of Supplies: each instrument requires 1 wrapping paper or paper towel tube, a strip of aluminum foil equal to the length of the paper tube, 2 balloons, and some rice, beans, lentils, or unpopped popcorn kernels. You may need some scissors.

Instructions: Paper tubes can be decorated (painted, colored with markers, stickers, wrapped in colorful paper) prior to assembling the instrument or after. Scrunch the aluminum foil into a long coil and insert into the paper tube. Secure a balloon to one end of the paper tube. You may need to cut the open end of the balloon off for it to fit securely over the paper tube without hanging off. Next, pour some of the rice, beans, lentils, popcorn or whatever you are using as a noisemaker into the tube. Secure the remaining balloon over the other end of the rain stick. To play, tip the stick so the rice/beans travel down the length of the tube.

Create Your Own... Tambourine

List of Supplies: each instrument requires 1 plastic paper plate or bowl, ribbon, 5 washers, and 5 jingle bells. Tools needed are a hole puncher and some scissors.

Instructions: The plastic paper plates or bowls can be decorated (painted, colored with markers, stickers) prior to assembling the instrument. Use the hole puncher to create 5 holes along the edges of the plate or bowl. Be sure to leave a large space with no holes for a hand hold. Next, cut a few inches length of ribbon and thread it through a washer and a jingle bell and then thread the ribbon through one of the holes in the plate and tie loosely, leaving room for the washer and jingle bell to jingle. Repeat this process for the remaining holes in the plate.

Program Related Books or Book Talk

Please see the Matthew Meets the Man Read-a-likes list on the SPoT website.

List of Supplies

Supplies for each project are listed with their instructions.

Resources

Professional Resources (for librarian and teacher use)

Video tutorials for the above projects (plus more) are available on Howcast.com:
<http://www.howcast.com/guides/841-How-to-Make-Musical-Instruments-for-Kids>

Making Musical Instruments with Kids: 67 Easy Projects for Adults Working with Children by Bart Hopkins. (2009) ISBN: 978-1884365485

Snip, Burn, Solder, Shred: Seriously Geeky Stuff to Make with Your Kids by David Erik Nelson (2010) ISBN: 978-1593272593

Program Flyers, Posters, Advertisements, Bulletin Board Ideas, Templates, Rubrics, etc.