










Chicken Cup

Materials

-  A plastic drinking cup
-  Yarn or cotton string
-  1 paper clip
-  Paper towel
-  A nail
-  Scissors
-  Water



Students will experiment with sound by constructing a unique noise making device.

3rd - 5th
Grade

Directions

1. Cut a piece of yarn about 20 inches (40 cm) long.
2. Use the nail to carefully punch a hole in the center of the bottom of the cup.
3. Tie one end of the yarn to the middle of the paper clip.
4. Push the other end of the yarn through the hole in the cup and pull it through.
5. Get a piece of paper towel, then fold it once and get it damp in the water.
6. Hold the cup firmly in one hand, and wrap the damp paper towel around the string near the cup. While you squeeze the string, pull down in short jerks so that the paper towel tightly slides along the string. If all goes well – you hear a chicken!

What's going on?

This is an example of how a sounding board works. The vibrations from the string would be almost silent without the cup, but when you add the cup, it spreads the vibrations and amplifies them (makes them louder.)

The cuica is a musical instrument that works just like the chicken cup. Click it to hear what it sounds like!

