



AMANI PROJECT @ Home

INSTRUCTIONS

Activity 1: Make an Instrument

DETAILS

- **Time:** 1 hour (or more if you want!)
- **Materials/Equipment:**
 - Pen or pencil, piece of paper
 - [Amani DIY Instrument Cards](#) (click on the link or visit the resource section of the website)
 - Objects that are potential musical instruments; recyclables, bottles, branches, pieces of wood, metal, old shoes, etc.
- **Online/digital materials (optional):** [Andrew Huang's YouTube Music Videos](#)

WHAT WE BELIEVE (norms & values)

- Everyone can make music
- Music is both universal and individual
- You can create your own musical instruments using objects you have around you
- Music can be just for you, or something to be experienced with others

WHAT YOU WILL GET OUT OF THIS (objectives)

- Practice growth mindset
- Demonstrate rhythm, beats, tempos, pitch and dynamics
- Create instruments using found objects



ACTIVITY

Introduction

For this activity, you will make an instrument using objects you can find around you. If you have access to YouTube, watch Andrew Huang's YouTube Found-Object Videos [here](#) to see how he used found objects to make beautiful music. If you aren't able to watch those videos, don't worry!

Step 1 - Find Your Inspiration

First, explore different ways to make sounds with your body and/or objects in the room – such as clapping, zipping a backpack, or closing a door. What other sounds can you make? Try to make at least 10 different sounds using either your body or objects around you. Once you've done that, write your favorite sounds in a list on a piece of paper.

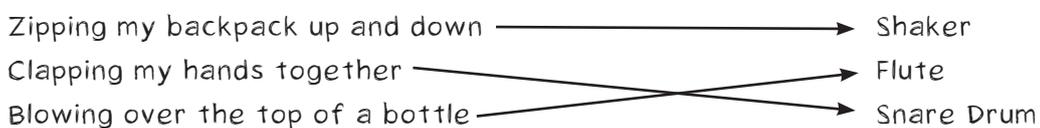
Examples:

- Zipping my backpack up and down
- Clapping my hands together
- Blowing over the top of a bottle



Step 2 - Compare Sounds

On the same piece of paper, write a list of as many musical instruments as you can think of next to the list of sounds you already wrote down. They can be instruments you have played before, or instruments you have seen other people playing. It might look something like this:



Compare your list of found objects to your list of musical instruments. Are there any sounds that might be similar? Test the sounds again. Draw lines to connect which found object sounds most like an instrument you listed. Don't worry if you can't think of an instrument that sounds like your found object sound. You might have invented a new instrument!



AMANI PROJECT @ Home

INSTRUCTIONS

Activity 1: Make an Instrument

Step 3 - Make Your Instrument

Now, choose an instrument you would like to make using found objects. Your instrument might not be difficult to make (for example, tapping a pencil on a desk), or it might take some more effort to make (for example, creating a shaker by putting pebbles in a can). If you would like some ideas and examples, see our [DIY Instrument Cards](#) made by Amani Club members in Tanzania or go to the [Amani @ Home YouTube Videos](#).

Step 4 - Play It and Share It!

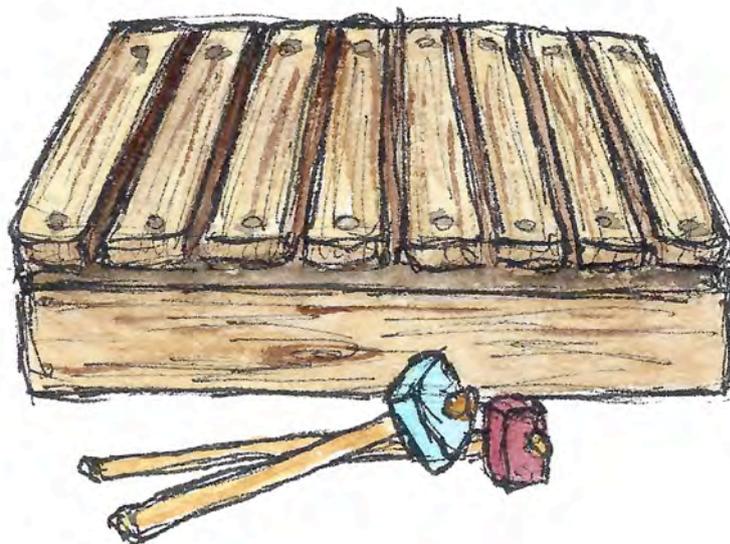
Test your instrument a few times to make sure it works the way you want it to. If there is something that isn't working, compare your instrument to whatever musical instrument it is closest to. For example, if you made an instrument with strings, but it is not making the sound you want when you pluck the strings, think of how a guitar is made. Find a picture or video of a guitar. Look very closely at how it is made, and then compare it to your instrument. What are the differences? Maybe the strings need to be tighter, or raised more? Test it out until you can answer yes to all of the following questions:

- Am I happy with how this instrument sounds?
- Does it sound musical to me?
- Can I play this instrument both loudly and quietly?
- If the answer to any of these questions is "No", make changes so that you can answer "Yes!" to all of them

Once you've made your instrument, take time to personalize your instrument by colouring it, writing your name on it, or adding anything else that is special to you. When you are finished, film yourself playing the instrument and share it on social media by using [#AmaniProject](#) or just share the video with the family members and friends you can't see right now.



Hey Adults! Do you have a suggestion for how to improve this activity?
Or just want to tell us how much you liked it? [Click here.](#)





ACTIVITY CHECK

Activity 1: Make an Instrument

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the questions below to make sure your young person has completed the activity. If they have missed a step, explain what is missing and what they need to do in order to complete the activity and earn their badge. Once they've successfully completed all the steps, congratulate them and award them the Activity 1 badge to glue onto their [Amani Project @ Home Badge Card](#).

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) List examples of found objects.
- 2) Explore sounds using found objects.
- 3) Create an instrument using a found object.

You must be able to answer "YES" to all questions below in order to award the badge.

1. Did they write a list of sounds and musical instruments on a piece of paper?

YES NO

2. Did they draw lines to compare the sounds to musical instruments?

YES NO

3. Did the club member create a musical instrument using found objects?

YES NO

4. Is the young person happy with how their musical instrument sounds and looks?

YES NO

Hey Adults! Do you have a suggestion for how to improve this activity?
Or just want to tell us how much you liked it? [Click here.](#)