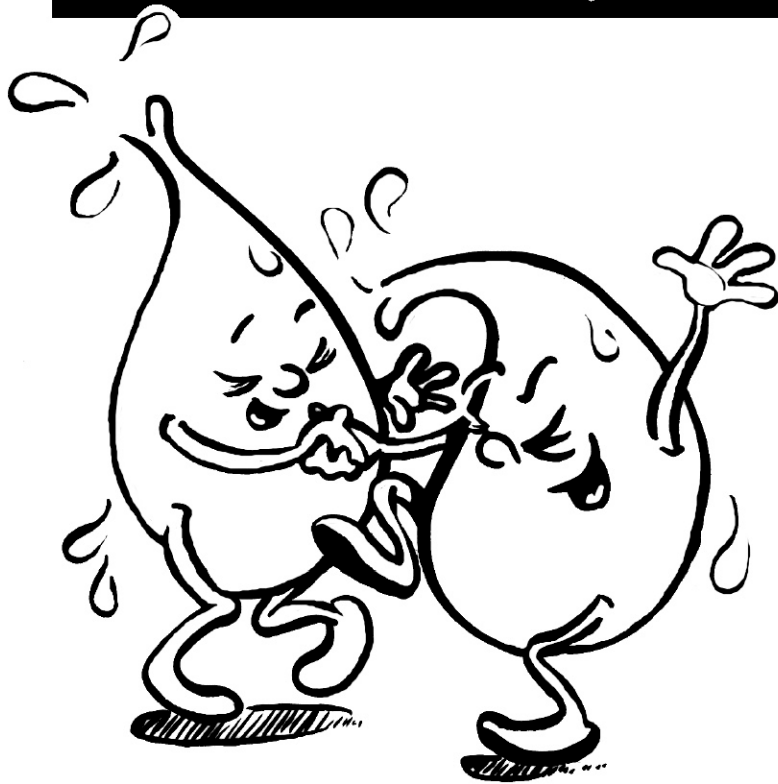


RAINSTICK



Materials

- Cardboard mailing tubes with end pieces
- Chicken wire
(cut wire into pieces the length of the tube and three times wider than the tube's width. Roll into a cylinder.)
- Materials for filling the tube, such as seeds, beans, pebbles, rice, beads, wheat, shells, etc.
- Decorating material such as markers, stickers, yarn, etc.

DIRECTIONS

People of ancient cultures used materials from their environment to make rainsticks, which imitate the sound of rain. A type of tubular rattle, it is a sound-producing instrument that dates back to some of man's earliest cultures.

Students will develop an appreciation and knowledge of other cultures, use their imagination to create their own rainstick, interact with other students and learn about agriculture and natural resources while having fun creating the sound of rain.

1. Attach one end piece to the mailing tube.
2. Insert rolled wire into the tube.
3. Fill tube with a mixture of seeds, beans, etc. Use more or less to create the sound you like.
4. Attach other end piece to mailing tube.
5. Decorate your rainstick by using items from your culture, or use natural objects from your own part of the world. Be creative.

Extensions:

- Discuss the rainstick. Rainsticks have been used by some cultures in ceremonies, childrens' games, as percussion instruments and to encourage or celebrate rainy weather.
- Conduct research in the library or on the Internet for information on rainsticks and other cultures. Research sayings, proverbs, or adages that exist in all cultures which pertain to rain, water, or the environment.
- Read *The Rainstick, A Fable*. Robinson, Sandra C., 1994
- Compose and perform a rain song and dance for culture day or Earth day at your school.