

Fun at home activity

Museum maestros

Inspiration: Museum maestros is inspired by the musical instruments in the Journeys gallery at the National Museum of Australia, particularly the amazing [dán tre](#) pictured below.

There are many musical instruments in the Museum that tell stories about the people who made or played them. Music is also a great fun way to share and be creative.

You can make an instrument at home with everyday materials, similar to those crafted by kids in the April 2014 Discovery Space at the National Museum.

Here are some ideas for making your own drum and chimes.

Time and difficulty: Fast and easy! These activities could take under an hour.

Hint: If you are using objects around the house, ask an adult first if it is okay. Be careful of sharp objects. You might need help from an adult with cutting or tying string.

Drum

What you need:

- a short piece of cardboard tube or PVC pipe, about 10–15cm long and across is good. You might need an adult to cut it for you.
- strong packing tape or a balloon
- pencils or short sticks to use as drum sticks
- decorative materials such as paper, cardboard, string, feathers, stickers and tectas.



Steps:

1. Take your tube and completely cover one end tightly with tape to make the drum skin. Or you could cut up a balloon, stretch it over the end and secure tightly with tape.
2. Decorate your drum with your own personal design. Use feathers and string for an exotic look or coloured paper for a different theme.
3. If you want to be even more creative, decorate your drum sticks too.

Make a couple of drums, bind or glue them together and you can create a drum set!



Chimes

What you need:

- one long stick (about 20–30cm) and one shorter stick
- fishing line, wool or string
- metal or ceramic objects such as bolts, screws, old keys (preferably with holes that can be threaded or tied)
- tape.

Steps:

1. Wrap tape, wool or string around the ends of your long stick to ensure that the chimes you make won't slip off the end.
2. Cut lengths of line or string for as many objects you have to hang.
3. Tie the objects with the string along the stick, evenly spaced. You might need an adult to help you with this, as it can be a bit tricky.
4. Use another stick to gently strike your chimes, or hang it outside to hear music playing in the breeze.



Congratulations: you are finished! Can you think of other household items that you might be able to use to create an instrument? Have fun playing your new instruments! Share your creation with us by sending a photo to: schoolholidays@nma.gov.au. We will add your photo to the [National Museum's Flickr stream](#), where you can see other craft creations from our Discovery Space.

[More fun at home activities, videos and games on the Museum's website](#)