

Create Your Own Rattle

The rattle is an important Native American percussion instrument. Rattles are made from materials found in nature. For example, the body can be made from a gourd or turtle shell that is filled with pebbles. The rattles are decorated with traditional patterns, feathers, and beads.

You can make your own rattle and decide what sound it will make by the materials you choose.



1. Take an empty water bottle or other container.



2. Choose your noisemakers. Try rice, dried beans or pasta, sand, pebbles, or anything that makes a sound. Put in a little or a lot. What sound do you like best?



3. Tape a stick to each side of the container to make handles.



4. Decorate your rattle. Use paper, paint, markers, beads, feathers, and your imagination!