

Ask Me About Sound!

Today, an instructor from the Discovery Museum in Acton visited my classroom and led a hands-on program about sound.

Ask me how sound is made and I will tell you about how I used a tuning fork to make a big splash. I constructed a Laughing Cup and played with a Big Ben hanger. Let me show you how to make some interesting vibrations with these sound toys.

Let's use different containers from around the house to make more laughing cups. Do you think all containers sound the same?

We can also construct another sound toy to explore together.

Can Cuica

A Cuica is a Brazilian friction instrument similar to the laughing cup.

What you need:

- one 24 oz. empty metal coffee can and lid
- a bamboo skewer or similar lightweight stick ($1/8$ " in diameter and about 10" long)
- two strips of duct tape, $1/2$ " wide and 3" long
- a damp cotton rag about 3" x 3"
- hammer
- small nail
- can opener



What you do:

1. Ask an adult to remove the bottom and top of the can and any sharp edges. With their help, hammer a hole in the center of the plastic lid using the nail.
2. About 1" from the pointed end of the stick wrap one strip of tape around and around.
3. Hold the plastic lid in one hand and carefully push the pointed end of the stick through the hole on the underside of the lid. Push the stick until the tape is pushed up snug against the lid.
4. Secure the stick in place by wrapping the second tape strip around the bare stick on the other side of the lid. The tape should sit snugly against the top surface of the lid.
5. Snip off the point of the stick.
6. Secure the plastic top onto the can. The stick will extend through the inside of the can and out the opposite end.

