

Chicken Cup

Materials

- Paper cup
- Scissors or pen for making a hole in the cup
- Cotton string (approximately 60cm)
- Small square of cardboard
- Water
- Chicken decorations (feathers, eye stickers)



Instructions

1. Use scissors or a pen to make a small hole in the bottom of the paper cup.
2. Thread the string through the hole.
3. Fold the square of cardboard in half and cut a small slit in one side.
4. Hold the end of the string that is outside the cup and wrap the string around the cardboard to stop the string pulling through the hole.
5. Hold the cup in one hand and wet the other hand with water. Use the wet hand hold the top of the string near the cup. Slide fingers firmly along the string until a sound is heard. It should make a clucking sound. If it doesn't work, try adding more water to the string, or use a small piece of damp cloth to rub down on the string.
6. Draw or stick eyes and a beak onto the Chicken Cup and add other decorations such as feathers.



What happens?

Sliding wet fingers or cloth along the string causes the string to vibrate. The vibrations are passed along to the cup, causing the cup to vibrate and the air in and around the cup to vibrate to make a sound.

Related activity

Try different sized cups and containers to make different sounds. For example, a small cup or ping pong ball will make a high sound like a mouse squeaking, and a large bucket will make a low sound like a cow mooing.