

Watch an Indigenous People’s Day video to inspire your instrument creation: [rockwellmuseum.org/idp](http://rockwellmuseum.org/idp)

Materials: 3-inch cardboard tube, 2 caps, colored paper, pattern paper, glue stick, markers, 3 pieces of string, beads, feathers, and 1 piece of animal hide. You will also need scissors, which are not included.

### Scavenger Hunt:

- 1) Search for materials to fill your rattle tube to make a unique sound.
  - a. Look for materials outside in nature, such as small pebbles, acorns, walnut shells, dried plant seeds, etc. (anything dry, small and hard)
  - b. Look for materials in your kitchen, such as corn kernels, dried beans/legumes, uncooked rice, seeds, etc.
  - c. Look for materials in your home, such as beads, buttons, lego pieces, etc. (any small, hard objects)
- 2) Fill your tube with your materials, push the second cap on the end, and shake your tube to test the sound. Experiment! Try switching up and combining materials until you find the sound you like.
 

Tip: Do not overfill your tube. Less is more!

### Decorate & Personalize Your Rattle:

- 3) Cut and glue paper to the outside of your tube using scissors and a glue stick.
- 4) Use markers to draw symbols and designs.
- 5) Add decoration using string, beads, feathers and animal hide.
  - a. Tie the three pieces of string together with a knot at the top. Secure the knot under one of the cap ends.
  - b. Braid, twist, or leave the strings straight.
  - c. Add your beads onto the strings. Thread through 1, 2 or all 3 string pieces. It’s up to you.
  - d. Add the feathers by bundling them so that all the stems are together. Tie a knot and before you tighten it, slip the feather ends into the knot hole. Then pull tight. The knot will also hold the beads in place.
  - e. Add the animal hide the same way. Tie a knot and before you tighten it, slip the end of the hide piece in the knot hole. Then pull tight.



**Shake and Enjoy!**



## Native American Rattle Information

Did you know that drums and rattles are the most common instruments used in Native American music?

Rattles have been used throughout the world to help keep rhythm during tribal dances and ceremonies. Native American rattles date back to historic times. They were the perfect accompaniment to Native American ceremonies, which often included dancing. The rhythm the rattle helps keep during the dance is unforgettable – something that resonates to the very soul, helping make the ceremony a spiritual experience.

The materials used to make a traditional shaker are taken from the three kingdoms---animal, mineral and plant. The animal kingdom is represented by the container or feather decorations used on the rattle. The mineral kingdom is represented by rocks used for sound or the paint used for decoration. The plant kingdom is represented by the container (if a gourd is used) or the wooden handle of the rattle.

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**Turtle Shell Rattle**



**Gourd Rattle**



**Horn Rattle**

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Gourd and bone are frequently used. Gourd rattles are made from gourds that have been carefully dried, prepared, and decorated according to personal and/or tribal preference. Bone rattles are most commonly made of a section of a bone or horn that is cut to a desired size. They are filled with seeds or other objects to produce the desired sound.

Turtle rattles are made from the shell of a turtle, with objects such as turtle bones or cherry pits placed inside. This instrument honors the turtle for its role in the creation of "Turtle Island," a name for North America that is frequently used by Eastern Woodlands Native Peoples.

**Take your rattle home, sit quietly alone or with friends and shake it! The music will help you clear your mind and open a doorway to a different emotional place.**