

Musical Instruments

Investigative question: ***What causes sound?***

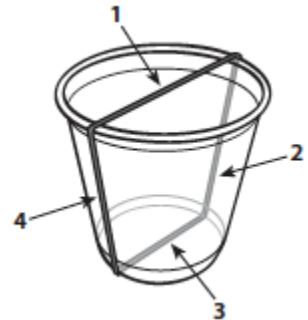
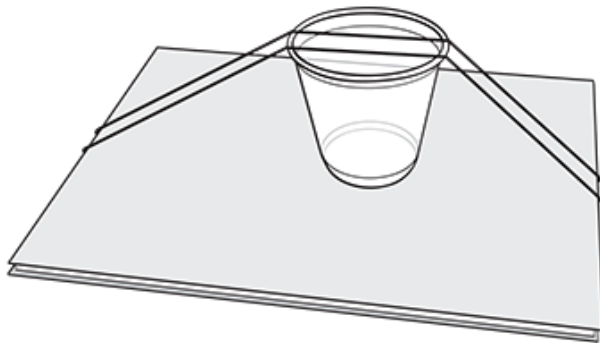
1. Take a few rubber bands and place them around a plastic cup. Pluck the rubber band to see what makes the best sound. You might want to try a few different cups or rubber bands to see what makes the best sound.

2. Once you have selected the best rubber band/cup combo, explore with your students all the different ways you could affect the sound. There are many. Try not to give too much guidance, as your students will likely surprise you with their creativity.

3. After your children have come to the end of their exploration make sure that they look at the rubber band after they plucked it. Do they see or feel it vibrate? If they put their fingers on the rubber band where the cup and the rubber band meet, can they feel the vibrations? The buzzing feeling is the rubber band moving back and forth very quickly.

4. The kind of motion they saw, heard, and felt was a fast back-and-forth motion called vibration. Vibrations move so fast, we usually can't really see the object moving. But we can feel it and we can hear it.

5. Now make a second instrument. A book fiddle like this image. Explore it carefully. Can they change the sound? How?



6. Now, what other questions do they have about sound? Record your thoughts.