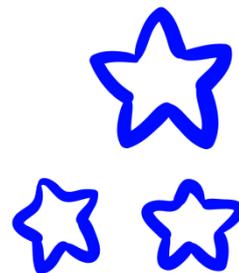


# CU Home Learning Challenge:

## Create your own musical instruments!

Music has been proven to make people feel happier and calmer, as it another way of being really creative. You don't need to be an expert musician either - just willing to have a go and make some interesting sounds. So, here's a challenge to help you along the way. You might have a musical instrument at home but leave that one in it's storage just for now...because we want you to get creative and make your own instrument! Maybe a version of one that already exists, or maybe you could even create a brand new instrument of your own?



### You will need:

- Any recycled objects (e.g. empty tissue boxes, cereal boxes, empty bottles, plastic straws, elastic bands, hair bobbles, tins and cans, paper plates, wooden spoons, etc., etc.

**Step 1:** Think about the different types of instruments. Some are part of the woodwind section (flute, clarinet), some belong to the brass section (trumpet, tuba), others are part of the strings section (guitar, cello) and others belong to the percussion section (drums, xylophone). You could research the different types of instruments online if you can, and perhaps listen to their sound. Listen to some music (of any kind) and try and identify what instruments are being used.

**Step 2:** Decide on an instrument you'd like to make and collect all the objects you'll need to make it.

**Step 3:** Get creative. Keep testing the sound that your home-made instrument makes. What happens to the sound if you change something about your design?

**Step 4:** Can you play along to some music with your instrument? Try and keep to the beat if you can.

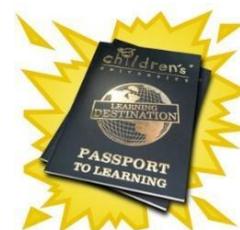
**Step 5:** Can you write your own piece of music for your instrument?

**Step 6:** Can you make a different instrument using the recycled products? Perhaps ask other people in your house to play them so that together, you have formed your own band or even an orchestra? If you have instruments in your house, could you include these too?



**\*Look below for a few ideas of what you could build if you're a bit stuck for ideas! You can be as creative as you like with the resources you have at home!**

You can claim up to 3 CU Credits. To claim your credits complete your Learning Reflection Sheet and email it, along with evidence of your completed work (photos and videos) to [admin@essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk](mailto:admin@essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk) or [manager@suffolkchildrensuniversity.co.uk](mailto:manager@suffolkchildrensuniversity.co.uk) depending on which area you live in. We will award your Credits. Looking forward to seeing your work!



This activity can earn you 1 credit for every instrument you make however, you can only earn up to 3 credits which would be 3 instruments. But feel free to make as many as you like! We cannot wait to see what instruments you make!

### Guitar:



guitar as you would like!

- Take an **empty tissue box** and decorate it.
- Once you have completed your decorations, take some **large elastic bands** and place them length ways around the empty tissue box, stretching across the hole in the middle. This must fit tight so that when you strum the band it makes a sound. If they are too loose they may fall off or create no sound.
- Lastly, you can add a **ruler**, a **piece of cardboard** or anything else you would like to use and create the neck of the guitar! You can stick this to your tissue box with tape! You can even decorate this part of the

### Pan Flute:

- Gather a few **plastic straws**, or any other straw-like object that you can find around the house. You can use as many straws as you would like, but 10 is an ideal number
- Once you have gathered all of your straws you can begin to **cut** them down to **different lengths**. **What do you notice about the different sounds and different lengths?**
- Lastly, **create** your Pan Flute. Lay out the straws in size order, so that they tops of the straws are all level. Stick them together then decorate it



### Drums:



- Gather a few **metal tins or cans** (**ask an adult to check they aren't sharp**). You can **decorate** these cans in any way you would like but remember to make sure that the cans are **clean**.
- Ask an adult to help you find some pieces of material, paper, cling film, etc. to place over the top of the cans.
- You can then **attach** the material to your metal cans to make the drum 'skin'. Stretch the material over the top then using elastic bands, hair bands, etc., fix the material in place. Just remember to make sure that the bands are on tight so that the material cannot fall off!

### Shakers:

- Gather a few empty, clean plastic bottles and decorate them.
- Find some small items that you think would make a great shaking sound inside. Put them in your bottle and screw on the lid. Shake your bottle - what do you think of the sound it makes?
- Experiment with different little items inside, shaking the bottle in different ways, etc.

