



# Musical Maracas!

(suggested age: 2+)

## Gather

- Rubber bands or tape
- Plastic eggs
- Plastic spoons
- Rice or beans or sand

## Let's Create!

1. Put rice or pasta into an empty plastic egg and close it up.
2. Put the head of two plastic spoons on either side of the egg.
3. Wrap some colorful tape or rubber bands around the egg and spoons.
4. Tape the bottom of the spoon handles together.
5. Shake your maracas to make music!



## How Does it Work?

Sounds are produced by vibrations in the air. When the rice, beans, or sand inside of the egg bounce around, they make the plastic egg vibrate. That vibration then hits the air and makes it vibrate, too...all the way to your ears! Sound travels pretty fast (343 meters/second or 1125 feet/second), so you don't notice the time it takes for the sound to travel to you if it is happening near you. However, if you are far away from a sound you can observe a delay. Pay attention the next time you are at a baseball game watching a batter hit a ball - if you are far enough away you will notice that it takes a moment for you to hear the sound after the ball is hit!

## Take it Further!

Maracas are percussion instruments that have been around for thousands of years. They were first made out of gourds or fruits that could be hollowed out and filled with stones or dried seeds. For more information and listening opportunities, visit:

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/literature-and-arts/performing-arts/music-theory-forms-and-instruments/maracas>

[https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah\\_602467](https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_602467)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUgj-aL6EXg>