



Look at these multicultural musical instruments made with recycled items

Activities: Let's Play the thumb castanets with bottle caps and cardboard, a sea drum with an old box, a plastic sleeve and any collected shells, seeds and rocks you can find... Make maracas with used drink bottles, paper rolls and any fillers you have.....let's have a jamming session.

Educator scaffolding: *shall we hit the drums? shake the maracas? Who wants to dance? where are these instruments from? – show on a world globe – let's add some CD music to this session?*

Sustainable themes:

We can make cool music with what we have – CREATIVE re-use

Music the world over is fun – expose children to diverse sounds, instruments, song and dance

We can pull some instruments apart to make other things later and store them in our Loose parts corner

Upcycle Art from around the world – Making Multicultural music

Multicultural musical instruments –

Make a wash board - Cajun area of the USA

When slaves were brought to America, drums were not allowed because plantation owners were afraid that there would be communication from farm to farm and, perhaps, some sort of uprising would ensue. So they danced, beat out rhythms with their feet and hands and played whatever else was handy. Jug bands were formed, using, literally, jugs and spoons and washboards and, in lieu of a standup bass. After Emancipation, freed slaves migrated to New York and there was a mixing of cultures. Irish immigrants and former slaves were in close proximity. The result was a metamorphosis of the Irish 'river dancing' and African tribal dancing and, thus tap dancing was born, often accompanied by the jug bands of the African Americans and/or the Irish instruments of that culture.



Back in those days, you could find washboards made with zinc, brass, glass, and wood. The device was still being used for washing clothes, but it crept into the Zydeco and Cajun' bands as an instrument.



A güiro or The güiro, was adapted from an instrument which might have originated in either South America or Africa, and is a notched, hollowed-out gourd. ... Modern instruments found in Cuba now feature a square-shaped cut-out opposite of playing side in which to facilitate holding the instrument more comfortably.



Make shakers or Maracas which originated from tribal groups in Latin America - Puerto Rico, Brazil, and Venezuela all claim first origins. In Puerto Rico, they are made from a native small tree called the "higuera", which produces a fruit with a hard shell. The Taino tribal people made a small hole in the shell to extract the pulp, and after letting it dry, would fill it with seeds or pebbles

Cajon box drum – is thought to have originated in Peru and is often found accompanying flamenco music. It is a box made of thin plywood (or old drawers in Cuba) and has a circular hole on the side to disperse sound. It is played by slapping the front or rear faces with the hands, fingers, or sometimes various implements such as brushes, mallets, or sticks



The Ocean Drum –Is thought to have its origins in the Native American water drum but there are claims that it actually originated in Nepal in the Himalayas (a landlocked country) and also The Middle East. It is usually filled with metal balls which better simulate the sounds of the sea as they are tipped gently from side to side



Castanets - the National Instrument of Spain -

These instruments originated over 1000 years old and are believed to have come from the Phoenicians - sea traders of the Mediterranean - they are played with the fingers of each hands and usually accompany folk dancing.

