

RAINSTICK

Objective: Students will develop an appreciation and knowledge of other cultures and learn about agriculture and natural resources while having fun creating the sound of rain.

Illinois State Goals: 12.E.

Top Book Hits:

The Rainstick, A Fable by Sandra Chisholm Robinson; **ISBN-13:** 978-1560442844

Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco; **ISBN-13:** 978-0698115811

Materials Needed:

- Cardboard mailing tubes with end pieces (or empty paper towel rolls, using packing tape on the ends)
- Chicken wire (cut into pieces the length of the tube and three times wider than the tubes width), rolled into a cylinder.
- Materials for filling the tube such as seeds, beans, pebbles, rice, beads, shells, etc.
- Decorating material such as markers, stickers, yarn, etc.



Procedure:

1. Attach one end piece to the mailing tube (or tape one end of the paper towel roll).
2. Insert rolled wire into the tube.
3. Fill tube with a mixture of seeds, beans, etc. Use more or less to create the sound you like.
4. Attach other end piece to mailing tube.
5. Decorate rainsticks by using items from the students' culture, or use natural objects from your own part of the world. Be creative.

Explore More: Students explore how people have tried to make rain throughout history. This lesson complements Top 40 Hits Lesson #37 Making Rain.