

Rumbling Rainsticks

Dear Presenter,

This activity is 10 to 25 minute HANDS-ON presentation for approximately 50 people. You must do this activity at home BEFORE you attempt to lead the activity during the water festival.

Thank you for volunteering to present "Rumbling Rainsticks." Have fun, enjoy yourself and we hope you will consider volunteering again next year.

Big Sioux Water Festival

Rumbling Rainsticks

MATERIALS LIST (FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE)

CONSUMABLES

- 50 2" brown mailing tubes with caps
- 1250 2" flat head nails
- 10 pounds of dry navy beans for fill
- 10 pounds of white rice for fill
- 10 pounds of dry black beans for fill
- 50 pieces of brown "butcher" paper
- Feathers, raw hide string, beads, various decorative materials
- Markers - miscellaneous colors
- 50 glue sticks
- 1 roll packing tape

NON-CONSUMABLES

- Small craft hammer
- Scissors
- Measuring scoops
- Pictures of rain sticks from different cultures (optional)
- 3 display rainsticks (one for each table)
- Rubbermaid containers to place fill materials
- Several large ziplock bags
- 1 large Rubbermaid container to store kit
- Presenter kit instruction notebook

Each rainstick will include:

- 1 mailing tube with caps
- 25 2" flathead nails
- 1 piece of brown "butcher" paper
- Miscellaneous decorative materials
- 1/2 cup of navy beans
- 3/4 cup of black beans
- 1 cup of white rice

Rumbling Rainsticks

To construct a rainstick

1. Decorate the piece of brown butcher paper with markers, making sure to leave space at each end and along the long edges to be taped later.
2. Tape one cap to one end of the tube with packing tape
3. Starting at the capped end, gently hammer nails into the seams of the mailing tube, placing them approximately 3/4" apart, making a spiral pattern.
4. With the piece of brown butcher paper, wrap the tube up, covering the nail heads. Tape the paper along seam to seal.
5. Pour in fill, measuring in approximate amounts. You can also use sand, pebbles, shells, beads, etc.
6. Cover the remaining end with a cap and tape. Tape brown butcher paper to the ends to keep in place.
7. Decorate tube with miscellaneous decorative materials.
8. When finished, slowly turn the rainstick end to end, listening for sounds of rain.

Rumbling Rainsticks

This activity is a hands-on activity. To best explain and supervise this activity you must do it at home BEFORE the actual presentation.

Background information is provided as a basic overview with both general and specific information. Share this information with the students throughout the activity.

BACKGROUND

A drought is a period of abnormally dry weather which persists long enough to produce a serious hydrologic imbalance (for example crop damage, water supply shortage, etc.) The severity of a drought depends upon the degree of moisture deficiency, the duration, and the size of an affected area.

For centuries "rain makers" tried many ideas to control and change weather patterns. One of the methods used were rainsticks.

Two and one half million years ago, rainsticks were used as items that were beat on the ground by people who prayed earnestly for the rainy season to begin.

Rainsticks are individual to specific cultures. Each area of the world makes them from different plants or trees, depending on what's available.

For additional information, please read "the Rainstick, a fable" by Sandra Chisholm Robinson.

Rumbling Rainsticks

ROOM REQUIREMENTS

- Room with tables - three 8' tables for the activity; one 8' table for storing presenter supplies. Chairs at each table for participants to sit at while constructing the rainsticks.

PRE-PREPARATION

Pre-preparation can include any or all of the following

- Check supplies against supply list
- Cut raw hide strings into varying lengths.
- Prepare display rainsticks
- Drive nails into all the mailing tubes.
- Tape a cap onto one end of each tube
- Measure and cut 50 pieces of brown butcher paper to fit each tube

PREPARATION - Approximately 30 minutes to set up

- Open all bags of fill and place into storage containers. Place measuring scoops into fill materials.
- Place on the supply table, the fill containers with fill and decorating materials
- On the supply table, place the measured and cut pieces of brown butcher paper
- Place a selection of markers at each table
- Put several glue sticks at each table
- Lay several tubes on each table

Rumbling Rainsticks

INTENDED PARTICIPANT OUTCOME

By completing this activity the participants will experience an art project that generates curiosity about other cultures and how rain can affect many different aspects of life

PROCEDURE

1. With your team of volunteers review the information about rainsticks provided in the background section of this notebook. Assign a minimum of 1 volunteer per table to help construct the rainsticks.
2. Greet each of your visitors enthusiastically. As each participant arrives, show him/her the display rainstick. Explain that they will be constructing a rainstick to take home.
3. Invite each participant to come up to the supply table and pick up a piece of brown butcher paper. Explain that he/she should return to the table and color a fun design. Make sure you tell him/her to leave space at the top and bottom and along the long side of the paper. Later it will be taped to the tube.
4. After he/she has completed the design, help to tape onto a mailing tube. Tape along the top edge (the end that is capped) and along the seam.
5. Next, add the fill. Help the participant with this step. After adding fill, cap and tape the end.
6. Invite the participant to take some of the decorating materials from the supply table. Advise them that there are glue sticks on the table.
7. Upon completion of the decorating, have him/her gently turn rainstick end to end and listen to the rain sound.

CLEAN UP AND SET UP FOR NEXT PARTICIPANT

1. Recap any glue sticks on each table to keep glue from drying out.
2. Discard any excess /used decorating materials that cannot be recycled
3. Add tubes to table for next group

Rumbling Rainsticks

FINAL CLEAN UP Approximately 30 minutes

- Dispose of any used decorating materials
- Place lids on the plastic storage container that contain the fill. Put these in the large Rubbermaid storage container
- Place any unused mailing tubes, the scissors, hammer and any extra packing tape in large Rubbermaid storage container
- Put any unused decorating material, glue sticks, and nails into ziplock bags. Check all caps on markers and put them in a ziplock bag. Place all these items in the large Rubbermaid storage container
- Add any unused mailing tubes to Rubbermaid container. Lay display rainsticks in container. As the top layer, place any unused pieces of brown butcher paper.
- Place presenter instructions in Rubbermaid container