

## Native American Instrument Project

DUE THURSDAY, MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>

Task: Choose one of the following instruments to construct: drum, rattle, or rain stick. The instrument can be made out of simple household items—this is a good time to "go green" and recycle already used items. Just be sure that it is clean from any food or liquid, and dry before construction.

Assembling: Directions for each of the projects will be given to students. They will have until March 15<sup>th</sup> to do the construction/designing of the instrument at home. Instruments should be decorated at home. Design sheet will be attached, along with a planning guide.

Grading: Instruments will be graded on neatness of construction and production of sound (i.e. does the instrument sound like it is supposed to). This project will be worth 100 points and count as a test grade on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester report card.

## Instrument Planning Sheet:

Week 1 (February 22<sup>nd</sup>): Read through instrument directions and decided on what instrument to make. Collect materials to make.

Week 2 (March 1<sup>st</sup>): Begin assembly and designing!

Week 3 (March 8<sup>th</sup>): Finish assembly. Begin decorating. Make sure your decorations do not make the instrument hard to play or change the sound.

Week 4 ☺ (March 15<sup>th</sup>): INSTRUMENT IS DUE!! 5 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED OFF THE FINAL GRADE PER DAY THAT IT IS LATE. Don't be late. ☺

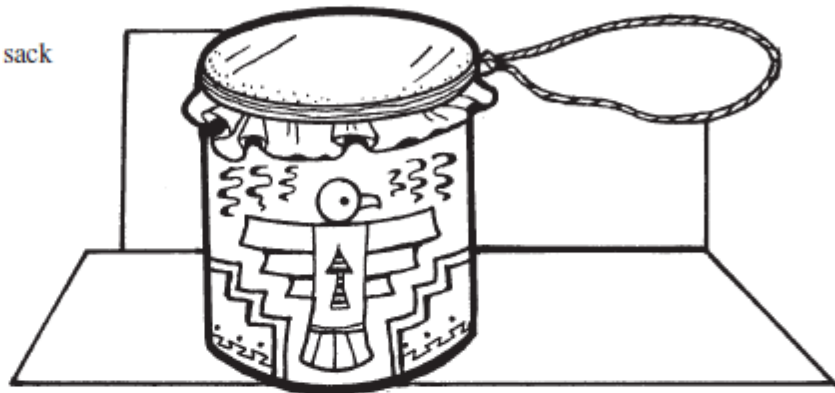
Week 5 (March 22<sup>nd</sup>): POW WOW IN CLASS! Using instruments students made.

# Native American Musical Instruments *(cont.)*

## Drums With Paper and Cloth Drumhead

### Materials:

- heavy brown paper sack
- scissors
- cheesecloth
- pencil
- ruler
- shellac
- brush
- wrapping twine
- rubber band
- coffee can for frame (open at both ends)
- can opener



### Directions:

1. Use a can opener to remove the bottom from a coffee can so it is open at both ends.
2. Cut a heavy brown paper sack open and spread it flat.
3. Center the coffee can on the paper sack and trace around it.
4. Using a ruler and a pencil, make marks 2" (5 cm) outside the circle. Join these marks, making a second, larger circle. Cut out this larger circle.
5. Using the paper circle as a pattern, cut a matching circle from the cheesecloth.
6. Hold the paper and cheesecloth circles together under running water to dampen them.
7. Place the cheesecloth circle on top of the paper circle. Put both circles on top of the coffee can. Hold them in place with a rubber band.
8. Tie wrapping twine tightly over the rubber band. Leave a loop for a handle if desired.
9. Allow the paper and cheesecloth circles to dry thoroughly.
10. Apply 3 coats of shellac to the drumhead, allowing it to dry after each coat. (White glue may be used instead of shellac, but the sound is not as resonant.)
11. Decorate the drum with Native American symbols and designs.

# Native American Musical Instruments *(cont.)*

## Rattles

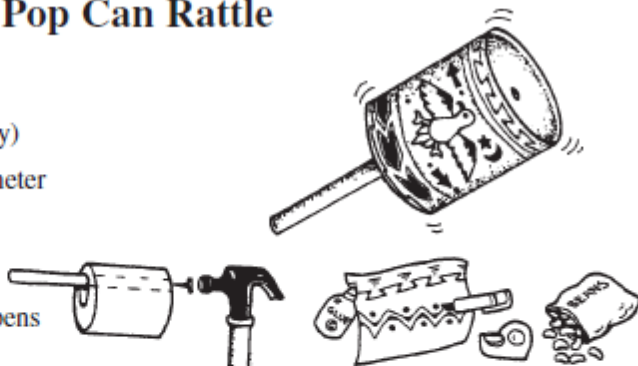
Rattles were very important to the Native Americans and they used many different types. Medicine men shook special rattles in ceremonies and healing rituals. Rattles were used as musical instruments during dances and as background to singing. A birchbark rattle accompanied the mournful chant of a Northwest tribal funeral. The Navajo used a combination drumstick and rattle. It was made from rawhide soaked around sand and pebbles, which could give a drum and rattle sound. Bright paint, feathers, colored ribbon, beads, and shells were used to beautify these instruments.

Nineteenth-century Native Americans prized the empty metal spice boxes used by the settlers. Tin cans and other metal containers were used for rattles, also.

### Soda Pop Can Rattle

#### Materials:

- Aluminum soda pop can (clean and dry)
- 10" (25 cm) dowel, 1/2" (1.3 cm) diameter
- masking tape
- beans
- construction paper, scissors, marking pens
- hammer and nail



#### Directions:

1. Obtain empty soda pop can. Be sure it's very dry inside (otherwise beans can mold).
2. Insert dowel at the opening. Secure dowel with a nail at the top of can.
3. At bottom opening, insert beans until you have a good sound. The type of bean, rice or popcorn will vary the sound.
4. When you have a sound you like, tape the opening securely.
5. Cover the can with construction paper.
6. Use marking pens and decorate with Native American symbols and/or designs.

## Native American Rain Sticks By: Johnna Burns

### Supplies:

Scissors	Corn, rice, dried beans
Glue	Tape
Brown Construction Paper	Feathers
Pringles can or paper towel roll	Nails or toothpicks (NOT SCREWS)
String or leather string	Markers
Beads	

First put nails or toothpicks in lines circling the pringles can or paper towel roll. Two or three lines work best on the pringles can. The nails should go every 1/2" to every 1". They should come close touching but should not touch.

The more nails the better! Next put tape over all of the nails to secure them.

Put beans, corn, and rice into the can. Different combinations and amounts will change the sound the rain stick makes. Tape the lid of the pringles can on securely. If using paper towel roll tape over both openings. Decorate with construction paper, feathers, and Native American designs.