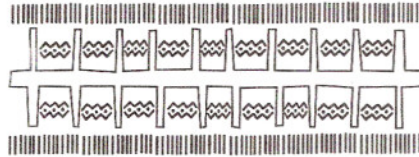


# African Shakers

Music is a valued part of African daily life. Music is made by singing and by playing musical instruments made from natural materials. Flutes, trumpets, and other wind instruments are made from wood, reeds, or metal. Stringed instruments are often made using gourds for the sound-boxes. Even a hunting bow can become a kind of violin. Shakers (*ishakas*) can be made of long tubes of straw or sugar cane filled with seeds, beans, pebbles, or sand. Each creates a different sound. The *shekere* is an instrument made from a dried calabash gourd wrapped in loose mesh with beads attached to the mesh.



## Project

Design and make African shakers.

## Materials

- medium-sized balloons
- wooden dowels cut in 6-inch (16-cm) lengths or thick cardboard rolled into a 6-inch (16-cm) long roll and taped.
- brown, black, yellow, purple, and green paint
- wrapping-paper tubes
- small pieces of newsprint
- tape
- starch
- white glue
- beans
- paintbrushes

## Directions

### Shekere

1. Place beans in a balloon. Blow the balloon up and tie it.
2. Tape a wooden dowel or cardboard roll to the end of the balloon.
3. Mix 3 parts liquid starch with 1 part white glue. Dip small pieces of newsprint in the starch mixture and place on the balloon. Cover the entire balloon and the top part of the wooden dowel.
4. Allow the starch mixture to dry for about 24 hours. Paint the shakers with African designs.

### Ishakas

1. Tape one end of a wrapping-paper tube closed and put a handful of beans inside.
2. Tape the other side of the tube closed.
3. Paint in African colors and designs.

