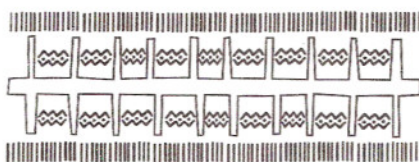


Tribal Drums

The drum is a common musical instrument all across Africa. Many years ago important messages were sent between tribes or distant villages by drum. Now Africans use more modern ways of communicating, but drums are still a very important part of tribal dances and ceremonies.

African drums can be made from many different types of materials. These include tree trunks, elephant tusks, clay, and tortoise shells. The drums usually have an animal hide stretched across the opening, although the slit drum is a carved wooden piece with slits at the top. When hit with a wooden stick, the slit drum makes a deep resonant sound.



Project

Design and make an African drum.

Materials

- butcher paper
- tempera paint and paintbrushes
- tape
- scissors
- rubber bands
- beads, raffia, yarn
- oatmeal tube, coffee can, or round ice cream container
- colored pens, glitter, feathers, and sequins
- construction paper

Directions

1. Cut butcher paper to cover the sides of the container(s).
2. Paint butcher paper desired color or design.
3. Cover open top with a circle of construction paper that is 2 inches (5 cm) larger in circumference than opening. Fasten with a rubber band.
4. Decorate drum with beads and raffia.

