

THE ABC'S OF PERCUSSION



THE ABC'S OF PERCUSSION

With Uncle Devin

*Recommended for Ages 3 to 6
PreK to Grade 1*

A Reproducible Learning Guide for Educators

This guide is designed to help educators prepare for, enjoy, and discuss *THE ABC'S OF PERCUSSION*. It contains background, discussion questions and activities appropriate for Ages 3-6.

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Smithsonian Associates

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ABOUT THE SHOW AND ARTIST

The **Uncle Devin Show** cultivates the minds of children and teaches music, math, and more, through percussion instruments. This show is a dynamic cross between Fat Albert and Schoolhouse Rock. Through all the bang-up interactive fun, kids also learn why percussion is the easiest, oldest, and most diverse form of musical creativity.

Uncle Devin is a rising leader in the children's music industry. His "**Uncle Devin's Drum Tales**" CD won a 2013 Parents' Choice Presentation Award and his children's book, "**The ABC's of Percussion with Music CD**", was named a 2015 National Parenting Publication Awards Bronze winner. He is also a Teaching Artist and Artist Roster member with Young Audiences/Arts for Learning - Maryland, where he performs Assemblies and Residencies in schools throughout the state.

Uncle Devin hosts his own radio show and has performed nationally at the Kennedy Center, Governor's Island (NY), the World Cafe Live (Wilmington, DE), Kids Place Live - Sirius/XM Radio, Kids Really Rock (Boston, MA), Jammin' Java (VA), and Overtown Youth Center (Miami, FL). He was

also the recipient of the **2013 Creative Curriculum Award** for his volunteer work with the Homeless Children's Playtime Project's in Washington, DC; performing monthly music events for the children of the homeless.

Devin has been performing as a drummer and percussionist for over 30 years, playing with local and international groups such as Fertile Ground, Soul-In-Motion Players, Bottomland, the UMBC Jazz Ensemble, the Lafayette Gilchrist Project, the Contee AME Zion Church Connection, Sense of Urgency Band and Godisheus International Funk Band. One of Devin's greatest musical moments was when he accompanied the **Great Dizzy Gillespie** on drums during a 1985 Jazz Workshop in Baltimore, MD. Devin's vast experience as a social justice activist is also expressed in his music.



For more information about Uncle Devin and to listen to his music visit:

www.theuncledevinshow.com

Check out the Smithsonian Learning Lab for *The ABC's of Percussion* here:

www.learninglab.si.edu/q/ll-c/1rf2yoFkAFvMyiVY

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MAKE YOUR OWN SHAKER!

Materials:

Aluminum cans (i.e. soda can)
Colored paper
Dried beans, uncooked rice, or un-popped corn
Strong Tape
Markers & Stickers

Directions:

- 1) Carefully remove the tabs from the aluminum cans. Clean and dry the can.
- 2) Wrap the can with colored paper.
- 3) Fill the can with dried beans, uncooked rice or un-popped corn.
- 4) Close the can with tape. Make sure to use lots of strong tape so the dried materials won't spill out!
- 5) Decorate the shakers with markers and/or stickers.
- 6) Put on some music and shake up some fun!



If you don't have aluminum cans, you can also use any empty container, such as empty yogurt containers or even toilet paper tubes. Just make sure to seal the containers tightly.

For more information, visit:

www.showkidsthefun.com/activity/aluminum-can-shakers.html

TRY YOUR OWN RHYTHM!

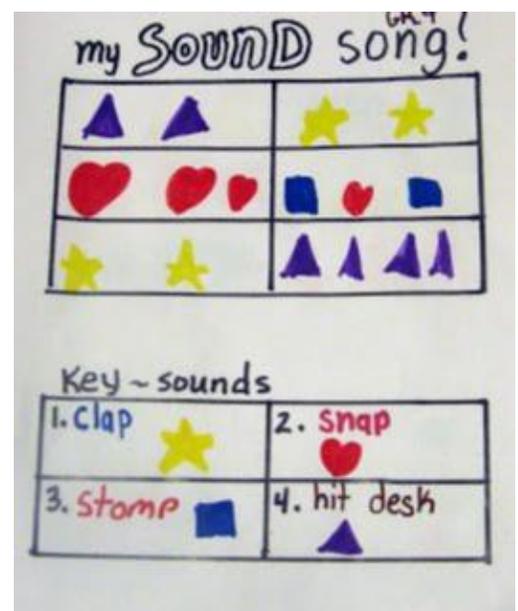
Use your hands and feet to explore the basics of music !

Materials:

Paper and colored markers

Directions:

- 1) Come up with different symbols to represent different sounds kids can make with their bodies.
- 2) For example: star = clap, square = stomp, etc.
- 3) Write out a combination of symbols, then try out the corresponding rhythm.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENT FAMILIES

BRASS family



The **brass** family consist of instruments commonly made with brass. Sound is produced by blowing into them with buzzed lips causing the air inside the instrument to vibrate. Examples include: tubas, trumpets, trombones, and french horns.

STRING family



The **string** family consist of instruments whose sound is made by plucking or moving a bow across a string, causing it to vibrate. This in turn makes the air surrounding the string vibrate, producing sound. String instruments include guitars, violins, harps, and ukuleles.

WOODWIND family



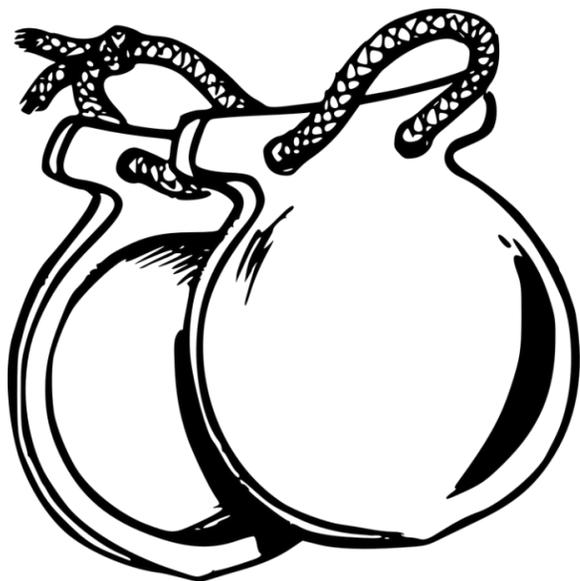
The **woodwind** family of instruments make noise by being blown into, similar to brass instruments. The air inside the instrument vibrates which produces a sound. However, woodwind instruments differ from brass instruments because they are made of wood. Examples include: flutes, clarinets, piccolos, oboes, and recorders.

PERCUSSION family

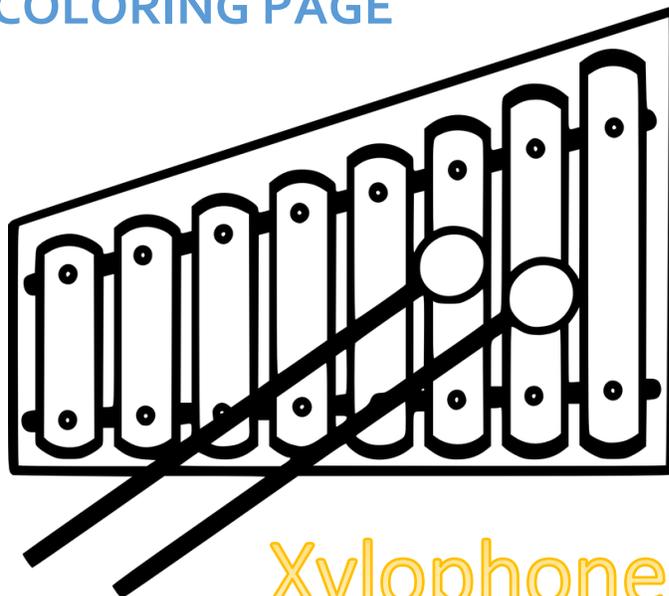


The **percussion** family of instruments often make noise by being hit with hands or mallets. Others, like cymbals make noise by being hit together. Furthermore, others can be shaken, scratched, rattled, or rolled. Examples include: drums, cymbals, castanets, maracas, and xylophones.

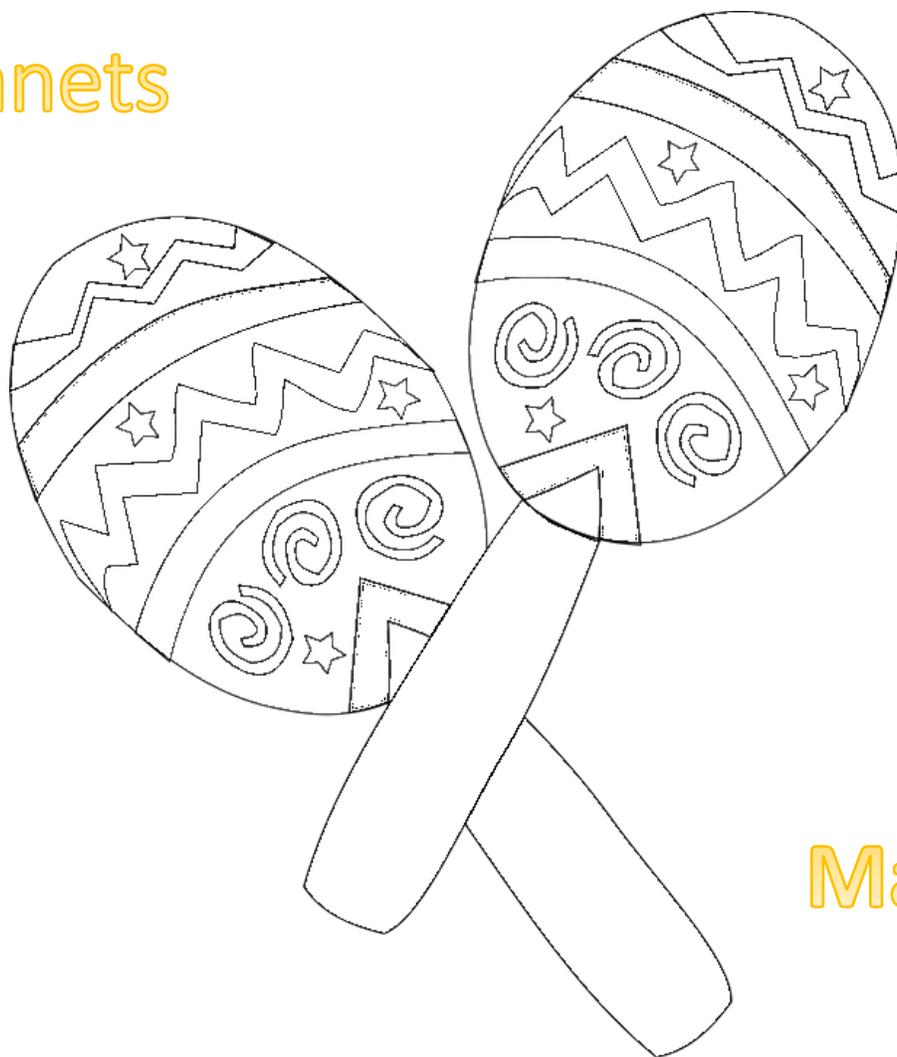
PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS COLORING PAGE



Castanets



Xylophone



Maracas



Smithsonian Institution

OUR MISSION: "THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE"

Smithsonian Associates advances the Institution's mission through life-enriching educational and cultural experiences inspired by the Smithsonian's research and collections for DC-region students, families, and adults, and for learning communities nationwide.

Discovery Theater has been presenting DC-area children with live educational performances for almost 40 years. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and beyond. We explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life's lessons. There's so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin!



Our Location

The S. Dillon Ripley Center, 3rd Sublevel
1100 Jefferson Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Mailing Address

Discovery Theater
P.O. Box 23293
Washington, DC 20026

Email: info@DiscoveryTheater.org

Phone: (202) 633-8700

Fax: (202) 633-1322

Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 4:30pm

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