



## Let's Make a Jar Xylophone!

A xylophone is a tuned percussion instrument.

You'll need a number of glass jars for this make. Glass bottles or tumblers will also work well, but using containers of the same size is a little easier to 'tune'.



### You Will Need:

- Glass jars
- Water
- Food colouring
- Wooden spoon

1. Open and clean out each of the jars and line them up in a row.

2. Fill the glasses with different amount of water, trying not to fill any jars more than halfway.

### Step 1



### Remove lids

Each jar is a different note to your xylophone - it's easier to play if the notes are in order. Sort the jars in order of how much water is in each jar.

3. If you'd like to add some extra flair, you can use a few drops of food colouring in each jar so they vary by colour.

4. Now you're ready to play! Use a wooden spoon as a beater to tap against the side of a glass to play a note. Can you play a tune?

### Step 3



### Add food colouring

### Step 2



### water into each jar

### Step 4



### Hit with a wooden spoon

## How It Works

When you tap a jar with the spoon it vibrates, making that clinking sound. The faster something vibrates, the higher the 'pitch' of the sound it makes. Adding water to the jar makes the jar vibrate more slowly, lowering the pitch of the sound.

For xylophones and glockenspiels, it's the length of the bars that are hit that changes the pitch. The shorter bars vibrate faster, and make a higher pitched note.