



# Camp AH-HA: Make it Monday: Native American Instruments

Make music just like the Eastern Woodland Native Americans!

## Who:

- You and your family

## What:

- For hundreds of years, Northwest Ohio has been the home to Native Americans. They represent many tribes like the Lenape, the Iroquois, the Miami, the Wyandot, the Erie and the Potawatomi. Have you heard these names before? Today we see tribal names given to lakes, counties, schools and parks in Ohio. Altogether these tribes were known as the Northeastern or Eastern Woodland Indians because they lived in wooded areas.
- Northwest Ohio was once a big dark forest. Can you believe it? It is hard to imagine when you look at the cities and farmland today. Part of Northwest Ohio was even a swamp known as the Great Black Swamp.
- How many of you have been listening to music while you've been home? Did you know that the Eastern Woodland Native Americans had music too? They did! They would make their own instruments with items they found in nature.
- Instruments used by this group of Native Americans were rattles, drums, and flutes. Check out the pictures below to see what some instruments may have looked like.
- The Native Americans used song and dance to accompany a variety of celebrations, important ceremonies, and social dances.
- You can hear a traditional Lakota lullaby played on a flute here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INAqpNTXXTU>

## How:

- Today you will get to create your very own instrument from items you have around your house,
- Begin by choosing what type of instrument you'd like to create. Rattle? Drum? Flute?
- Next look for materials that can help you make your instrument. Think about cardboard boxes, paper towel tubes, tin cans, string, rubber bands, straws, paper plates, beans to rattle, paper cups and more.
- Using tape, glue, and scissors, carefully create your instrument.
- Play your instrument! If you notice any adjustments that need to be made, figure out how to make them. You can always change your design and make it better!
- Notice how the sounds are different depending on the materials you use and the size of the instrument. A large cardboard box makes a different drum sound than a smaller box.
- Post pictures of your final instruments on our Facebook page or email us at [info@heritagesylvania.org](mailto:info@heritagesylvania.org)

## Tips:

- Plan out your design first. This may eliminate any mistaken cuts and having to take it apart once you've started.
- Be creative with your materials. Think outside the box!

## Extensions:

- The Eastern Woodland Native Americans who lived in our area, used a call and response style of singing for some of their songs. This means that one musician would play a part and another would play another part as if they were talking to each other. Research this style of music and make up a call and response song of your own!
- Make a rattle, drum, and flute. Have three people try and make a song by playing all together!
- Try and make an instrument out of only natural materials, materials found in outside. What can you find and use?



Drum made from hollowed log and animal hide

Flute made from animal bone





Rattle made from turtle shell with small rocks inside