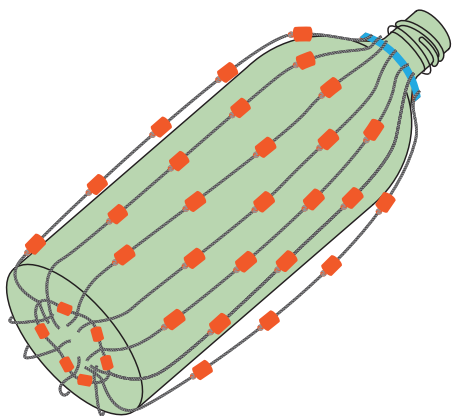


Make a Nigerian Shekere



Many African languages use music and musical instruments to help people communicate and tell stories. One of the most prominent instruments in Nigeria is the gourd rattle or *shekere*. The Yoruba people, whose traditional tonal language uses varying beats and tempos, use these instruments to tell a story.

Materials

- plastic bottle or jug (larger the better)
- yarn or string
- elastic band
- tape
- scissors
- beads
- paint
- paint brushes

Instructions

1. Decorate the outside of the plastic bottle with paint and let dry. Discard the bottle cap.
2. Cut a ten inch piece of yarn. String about eight beads on to the yarn, then tie a knot to form a beaded ring (the ring should be

small enough so you cannot slide it onto the bottle). Trim the ends.

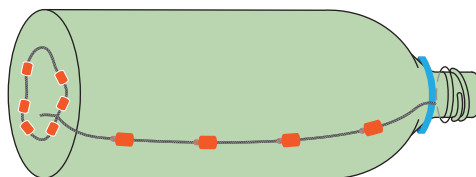
3. Use two pieces of tape and tape the ring to the bottom of the container.



4. Wrap an elastic band around the neck of the bottle (leave a little give so you can still tie a string to it).
5. To begin adding beads, cut a three foot piece of yarn or string. Tie a double knot about six inches from one end. String a bead. Then tie another double knot, leaving room between the knots so the bead can slide around. String another bead. Repeat until you have about six to eight beads on the piece of string.



6. Tie one end of your beaded strand around the beaded ring at the bottom of the bottle. Tie the other end of the beaded strand to the elastic at the neck of the bottle.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you have about three or four beaded strands wrapped around your bottle (you may want to create more strands if you have a larger bottle).



8. Lastly, take the tape off the beaded ring. Your shekere is ready to make music.