

CLAPPING STICKS



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A note from Page

Two sticks can be glued together to achieve a different sound!

These percussion instruments are inspired by Australian clap sticks, also called *bilma*, created by Aboriginal tribes to use during their ceremonial dances. The Aboriginal people of Australia painted symbols and patterns to tell a story or record rituals on these tools. This technique was often used so others could not understand their messages and thus the meanings could remain secret.

Materials:

- 2 large or small Paint Stirrers
(These can be found for free at hardware stores)
- Acrylic Paint
- Markers
- Paint Brushes
- Cotton Swabs

Directions:

1. Paint the sticks thoroughly and allow them to dry.
2. Using markers, create designs on the sticks (Animal designs are often used, but you can also use your imagination for yours)
3. "Hide" your design with dots made with paint and swabs or markers. Do your dots mean something secret?
4. Allow the paint to dry.
5. Clap your sticks together to create your own beat.



If you'd like to post your clapper sticks, let us know with the hashtag #Storyologist!