



Cultural Activities

Activity Name	Click your Castanets
Activity Background	Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American
	
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining knowledge of different cultural practices and world views • Children are connected with and contribute to their world • Children are confident and involved learners
Supporting Information	<p>This percussion instrument can currently be heard in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American traditional styles of music. Earlier it was also commonly heard in Moorish, Ottoman and ancient Roman music. They are traditionally made of hardwood, however, nowadays fibreglass is increasingly common. Spanish folk dance is the style of music in which castanets are most commonly heard (as opposed to flamenco which is the popular belief).</p>

<p>Required Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal bottle caps/tops (washed) • Glue or hot glue gun • Coloured cardboard cut into 4cm x 10cm strips • Decorative items such as sequins, stickers, stars
<p>Method</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A pair of castanets requires two metal bottle caps 2. Cut a strip of semi-thick coloured cardboard to fit snugly around a thumb, and another for the forefinger, with 2cm flaps on each end, which are to be glued to the bottle cap. 3. Once the glue has dried, decorate the top of the castanets.
<p>Safety Aspects</p>	<p>Difficulty: Suitable for ages 4+ The hot glue gun should only be operated by an adult and kept out of reach of children.</p>
<p>Ideas for extending the activity</p>	<p>Listen to some traditional Spanish music and play along to the music with your castanets. Learn a traditional dance sequence where the castanet can be incorporated. Pinpoint on a map all of the countries where the castanet is a popular instrument.</p>
<p>References and additional information materials</p>	<p>http://www.caribbeanchildren.com/ http://worldmusic.nationalgeographic.com http://www.mapsofworld.com/south-america/culture/music.html http://crafts.kaboose.com/maracas.html</p>