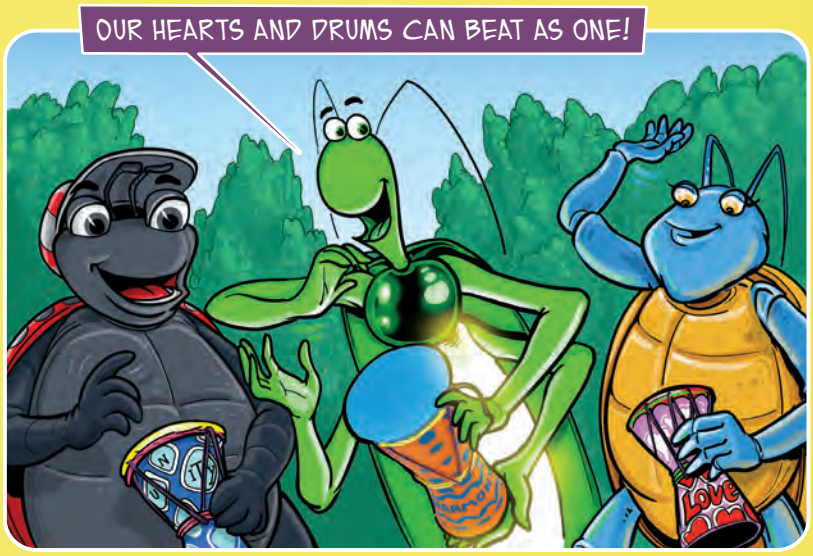
Create Harmony: Make Your Own Drum

"We work and pray for the unity of mankind . . . that all hearts may beat as one heart, working together for perfect unity and brotherhood." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

I was super excited to make music at school today. We're learning about my favorite instrument—drums! I love how they're created and played in different ways in cultures around the world.

Mrs. Mantis let us use drumsticks to play her barrel-shaped **taiko** from Japan. We also played a small pair of hand drums called a **tabla** from India. My fave was the **djembe**, a hand drum from West Africa that's shaped like a goblet.

I was inspired by how drums have the power to connect us. So I invited my friends over for a drum circle! Everyone brought a cool drum they made using the steps below. It's amazing how each made unique sounds, but we still played in harmony! We sang prayers to lift our spirits even higher. You and your friends can make drums and play in unity, too!



You'll Need

- wax or other nonsticky paper
- scissors
- two sturdy 9 oz. (266 mL) plastic cups
- duct tape
- printer paper
- tablespoon
- white glue
- water
- paper plate
- paintbrushes
- nontoxic paint
- ruler
- unused 9" (22.9 cm) latex balloon
- two 4" (10.2 cm) rubber bands
- 3 ft. (91.4 cm) and 7" (17.8 cm) pieces of yarn
- dark permanent marker

1 Protect work area with wax/nonsticky paper. Carefully cut off bottoms of both cups with scissors.



2 Cut open the side of one cup. Remove ½" (1.3 cm) off one cut edge, then tape cup's edges back together, inside and outside.





3 Fit bottom of taped cup inside bottom of other cup. If needed, trim base of untaped cup to help. Secure with tape.



4 Tear printer paper into 1½" (3.8 cm) square pieces. Mix 3 tablespoons (44 mL) glue and 3 tablespoons (44 mL) water on plate. Dip paper in glue mixture and press smoothly to sides of drum. Use paintbrush to help. Continue until drum is covered (inside and out) in one or two layers. Let dry.



5 Paint drum to cover paper. When dry, paint with colorful designs or words like harmony, respect, or unity.



6 Cut tail off balloon so top portion is 2" (5.1 cm) long. Stretch to fit snugly over larger end of drum.*



7 Wind rubber band twice around balloon edges. Wind other rubber band twice around center of drum.



8 Tuck one end of longer piece of yarn under center band. Keeping yarn taut, thread through upper and center bands to make triangles around drum. Wind leftover yarn around center band and tuck in end.



9 (A) Knot one end of shorter piece of yarn to upper band. Under that, knot its other end to center band for handle. Decorate drum with marker. (B) To play, hold drum in one hand. Use your free hand to make drumbeats. Try using a marker as a drumstick.





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*You may notice a dimple due to the balloon's shape.