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ZOO ZOOM FAMOUS: LIFE HACKS FROM A PROFESSIONAL CRICKET ACTIVITY GUIDE

LISTEN:

<https://tinkercast.com/podcasts/zoo-zoom-famous-life-hacks-from-a-professional-cricket/>

ACTIVITY: HEAR YE, HEAR YE, IT'S A NOISEMAKER

In this [episode](#), we learned all about how crickets have come up with a neat little hack to make their mating calls louder and more attractive to potential partners. Let's get loud and explore sound amplification with this noisemaking activity. You'll use a simple plastic cup as an amplifier for the vibrations you make with a wet paper towel and string. Beware the resulting sound is quite similar to the clucking of a chicken!

MATERIALS:

- plastic drink cup
- thumbtack or nail
- yarn or cotton string
- paperclip
- paper towel
- water

WOW-TO:

Step 1: Ask an adult to help you use the thumbtack to carefully punch a hole in the center of the bottom of a plastic cup.

Step 2: Cut a piece of string about 20 inches long.

Step 3: Tie one end of the string to the middle of the paper clip.

Step 4: Push the other end of the string through the hole you just made in the cup and pull it through.

Step 5: Cut a piece of paper towel about the size of a dollar bill.

Step 6: Dampen the piece of paper towel (warning: you don't want it dripping wet).

Step 7: Now it's time to make some noise! Hold the cup firmly with one hand and wrap the damp paper towel around the string near the cup with the other hand. While you squeeze the string, pull down on it in short but strong bursts so that the paper towel slides along the string. If all goes well, you will hear a strange noise. Normally the vibrations from the string would be almost silent without the cup, but when you add the cup, it spreads the vibrations and amplifies them (making them louder just like a mating cricket).

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CRAFT: MAKE YOUR OWN KAZOO

Crickets aren't the only ones making noise around here. Let's make some sweet, sweet music with this simple make your own kazoo craft. Beware, you may attract some new friends with your toilet paper kazoo just like a cricket with a leaf.

MATERIALS:

- toilet paper roll
- wax paper
- rubber bands
- crayons, markers or paint

WOW-TO:

Step 1: Decorate the outside of a toilet paper roll with whatever art materials you have around. Get creative!

Step 2: Cut a piece of wax paper into a 5" x 5" square.

Step 3: Place the wax paper square over one end of your tube and fasten it tightly around the tube with a rubber band.

Step 4: Sing or talk into the other end of your kazoo and enjoy the sweet, sweet music!

Pro tip: If you are having any trouble getting a sound out, you may need to adjust the placement of your rubber band. You probably just need a bit more space between the end of the kazoo and the rubber band to get enough vibration going to make some music.

WOWING ME NOW:

While listening to this [episode](#), what made you say, "Wow!"?
Was it the way Guy Raz holds open his cookbooks while cooking?
Was it something else? Draw a picture of what is wowing you now.

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ZOO ZOOM FAMOUS: LIFE HACKS FROM A PROFESSIONAL CRICKET BOOKLIST

What questions came up for you while listening to this [episode](#)? Let your curiosity lead you to a local library or bookstore to explore these titles on crickets.

[The Very Quiet Cricket](#), by Eric Carle (0-4). A board book from the classic children's author about a cricket in search of his sound, with an audible chirp at the end. Fiction.

[Cricket](#), by Laura K. Murray (4-6). The growth, behavior, and habitats of crickets, for younger readers. Nonfiction.

[Crickets \(Spot Creepy Crawlies\)](#), by Nessa Black (4-6). Simple text, photographs, and a search-and-find feature introduce early readers to cricket anatomy. Nonfiction.

[A Ticket for Cricket](#), by Molly Coxe (4-6). Little Cricket wishes he could go somewhere where his noisemaking won't wake his baby brother, and a ticket to space may be the answer. Fiction.

[Cricket in the Thicket: Poems About Bugs](#), by Carol Murray and Melissa Sweet (4-8). A collection of bug poems accompanied by watercolor and collage illustrations, with pop-out facts. Fiction.