



NATURAL INSTRUMENTS

MAKE MUSIC WITH NATURE

Episode: "Pet Sounds" (11 min.)

The Nature Cat Band is ready for The Battle of the Pet Bands! They've been practicing for weeks and cannot wait to compete! But right before the band battle is set to begin, a mishap launches all of their instruments into the ocean! How can they make music and compete with no instruments? Oh no!

Episode curriculum goal: We can use some of the things we find in nature to make sounds that we can mix with rhythmic patterns to make music.

Clips on PBSKids.org: "Nature Instruments!"

*To view clips, visit [PBSKids.org/video](https://www.pbskids.org/video), click on Nature Cat and select Browse.

Goal of Activity:

Explore sounds with natural objects.

What You'll Need:

- 🍃 A variety of natural objects, such as:
 - Twigs
 - Bark
 - Grasses
 - Pinecones
 - Stones
 - Seed Pods
 - Dried Flowers
 - Leaves
- 🍃 Basket for materials
- 🍃 Containers to hold loose materials

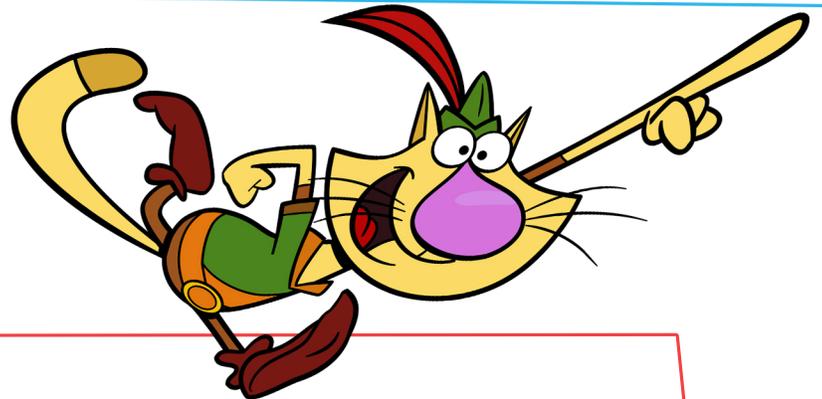


The Basics:

Number of children: Up to 20 children at a time.

Space: Child-height tables or a space to sit on the floor, in a location easily accessible to visitors.

Time: 15-20 minutes.



Preparation (before children arrive):

- 🍃 Put natural materials in a basket and place on the floor. Take out a few items that you will be using during the introduction.

Tally Ho! What To Do:

- 🍃 Welcome participants to the area and have everyone sit in a circle with you.
- 🍃 Introduce the activity: "Thank you for joining me to see what kinds of 'musical instruments' we can find in nature. We are going to explore sounds that are made from dried flowers, leaves, stones, pinecones, and more."
- 🍃 Introduce the children to each object (e.g., dried flowers, leaves, stones, pinecones). Discuss where they might find the object (e.g., tree, flower, or plant; which part of the plant).
- 🍃 Suggest or demonstrate ways they might use a few items. For example, gently stroke a twig across the scales of a pinecone, or tap two seed pods together to see what kind of sound they make.
- 🍃 Have the children gently select a natural object to use as an instrument.
- 🍃 Encourage each child to play his/her instrument for the other children and then put object back into the basket.
- 🍃 Welcome any suggestions the other children may have for making a different sound from the object.



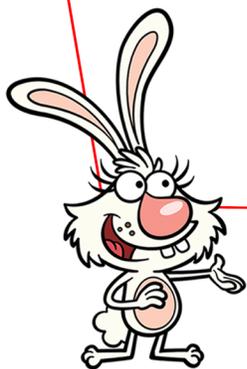
Onward and Yonward! Take It Further:

Things to talk about: As children do the activity, encourage them to think about the natural materials and the sounds they make, by asking questions like these:

- 1) How can you make this ____ make a sound? What kind of sound do you think it will make? Have the children predict what sound each object will make, then try making a sound to test their prediction and see whether the sound matches.
- 2) Do you need to hold this object a certain way for a noise/sound to be produced?
- 3) If the object is held differently, does it make a different sound? Is the sound loud or soft?

Things to do:

- 1) As the children play their nature objects, have them sing a familiar song.



Partnership



The Natural Instrument Activity was created in partnership with Kohl Children's Museum.