

Didgeridoo Craft

"Probably the easiest craft is a didgeridoo. It is a long tubular wooden musical instrument used by Aborigines. You can make it out of several toilet rolls stuck together (to make one long one), or use a paper towel roll (which is longer). Decorate some paper and roll it around the roll and glue it on. Easy!"

This instrument is made from branches of a particular tree that have been hollowed out by termites. Apparently, finding these branches and choosing the best one is an art in and of itself. Once a person has found the perfect branch, the next step is to decorate the branch with aboriginal artwork.

"Didgeridoo: A musical Instrument made and played by Australian Aborigines. Originally made from hollow branches of various Australian Trees found in Northern Australia. Decorated with Ochre and variety of natural dyes. Each maker had his own specific decorations. Fun Didges for kids of all ages can be made using Polypipe offcuts or the hard tubes from old vacuum cleaners. Minimum size 3 feet by 1.2 inches diameter up to 6.5 ft. The larger the tube the deeper the sounds made. Sit children on floor with one leg outstretched, place Didge end on an angle to floor, with the foot raising it slightly. Blow into tube by quick breath in through nose and slowly breathe out through mouth down the tube. When they can successfully produce a noise introduce other vocal sounds such as tick tock, clucking and other animal noises any sort will do. The better players can make noises such as animals running to and fro. Additional short piece of pipe can be used as a beat against the outside of the main tube."

"The didgeridoo traditionally came from Northern Australia and was traded with the southern states. It became an instrument played all over Australia. The decorations had very significant meaning. It is a man's instrument and was not allowed to be played by women. In some areas women were not even allowed to touch a didgeridoo. Traditionally this is still the case in a lot of areas. Aboriginal elders still do not like women playing them."

Have fun making yours!

Materials:

- paper tube (wrapping paper, paper towel or multiple TP rolls)
- white paper
- crayons
- transparent tape

Instructions:

- If you are using TP rolls or more than one paper towel roll, tape them together to form a single long tube.
- Cut as many pieces of white paper as you need to cover so that each piece wraps once around the paper tube.
- Make your "aboriginal art" design on the paper or pieces of paper that you will use to cover the tube.
- Cover your tube with your design and tape it in place.

