

STORYTELLING with a THUNDER TUBE with Patti Smithsonian

You Need

- 
- A long spring. We can use a spring removed from a spiral notebook
 - A tube with one end open: a cardboard mailing tube is best. Pringles tubes work well. Metal cans are OK
 - A nail or sharp instrument to make a hole
 - Hot glue or tape
 - Step-By-Step tutorial: www.think360arts.org

The Big Idea



Learn to **make your own sound effects instrument, a Thunder Tube**. We will explore the many sound effects that it can make and then create a story with the sound effects. Thunder Tubes are great toys because they don't need batteries! There are many sound effects that can be derived from this one instrument.

The Plan

How to Make a Thunder Tube

Step 1 - Select a tube with one end open.

Step 2 - Select a spring and straighten one end.

Step 3 - Punch a hole in the middle of the tube's end.

Step 4 - Insert the end of the spring into the hole in the tube.

Step 5 - Glue or tape the spring in place.

Step 6 - Start having fun with the Thunder Tube!



The Plan cont.

- How can we get different sounds from the Thunder Tube?
- Try tapping, rubbing, talking into it, pulling the spring, bouncing the spring, shaking it slow or fast.
- Discover some new sounds by playing with the Thunder Tube.
- Make up a story with sound effects. Just like a picture book will have an illustration for each sentence, create a sound for each sentence of a story.
- This can be a game with friends. Each one of you makes up a sentence with a sound effect, and then pass the Thunder Tube to the next player to complete the next sentence of the story.

Teaching Artist Tip

- Story starters can help you come up with ideas for original stories. Try titles like "The Haunted House", "The Birthday Party Gone Wrong", "Trapped in a Storm". "Shipwrecked".
- How many different sound effects can you make with a thunder tube?
- Try the game: Storytelling in the Round. One person starts and story (and sound effect) and gives the thunder tube to the next person who continues the story, and so on.

Going Further

- The SCIENCE: The vibrating spring transfers its mechanical energy to the tube membrane, which transfers the energy into the tube in the form of sound waves. The springs starts sound waves that resonate in the tube. Our ears comprehend the waves in the air as sound.