

Art Activity

Create a Güiro (gwir-ō)

Take & Make: Create your own Güiro

Ages: 6+

Culture/Region: Puerto Rico

Subject Area: Fine Arts, Visual Arts

Activity Type: Hands-On Activity



Create a Güiro, a Latin American Percussion Instrument!

A *güiro* is a percussion instrument from Latin America, typically hand-made and hollow with a ridged side. *Güiros* were originally carved from wood, gourds, or bone. Modern *güiros* are created using plastic, wood or metal. When scraped with a stick along the ridged surface, they create a [rasping sound](#). This traditional instrument can be heard in music around the world. Explore the rhythm and sounds of Latin America and create your own *güiro*!

Materials:

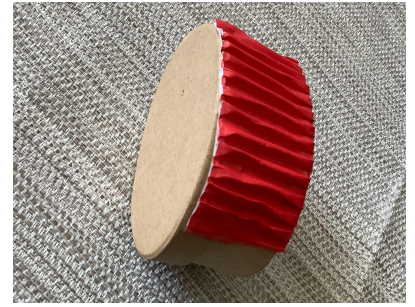
- Paper cup, or container, with lid
- Textured paper with ridges, such as bulletin board border paper
- Crayons
- Popsicle stick
- Optional: Recycled water bottle, empty ribbed can

Creating a Güiro

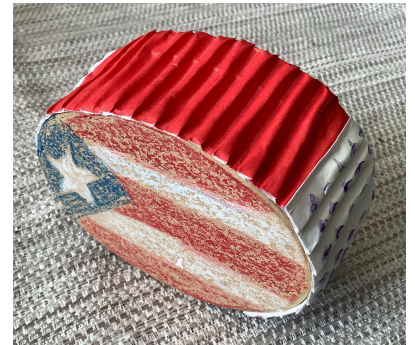
1. Glue the lid to the top of the cup or container. You may also use a water bottle or recycled ribbed can.



2. Glue textured border paper around the sides of the cup, or container. This will give your instrument rough, textured sides. If using a water bottle or can, you do not need additional ridges.



3. Use crayons, markers, or paint to color and add designs to your *güiro*.



4. To play your *güiro*, rub the popsicle stick across the ridges along the sides of your instrument.



Explore More at VMFA!



Untitled (SK-MY) (Primary Title), 2013

Angel Otero, American, born Puerto Rico, 1981 (Artist)
Oil paint and oil paint skins collaged on canvas
2014.6

Texture refers to the feel of the surface on a work of art. Notice how this a creative element of design can be seen in both the artwork shown above as well as a *güiro*.