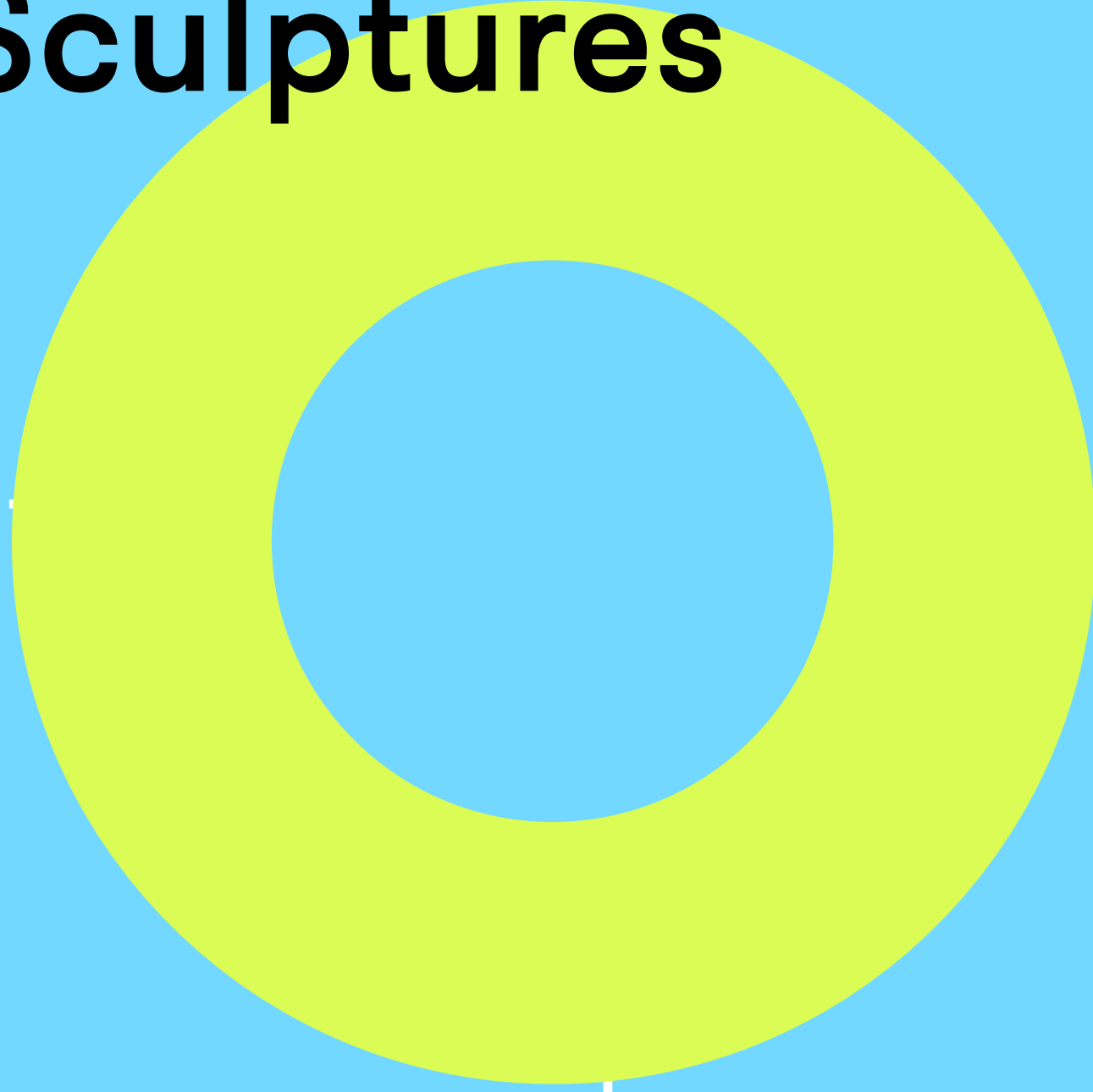


Sound Sculptures



activity 2

Children use recycled and repurposed materials to create sculptures that make different sounds.

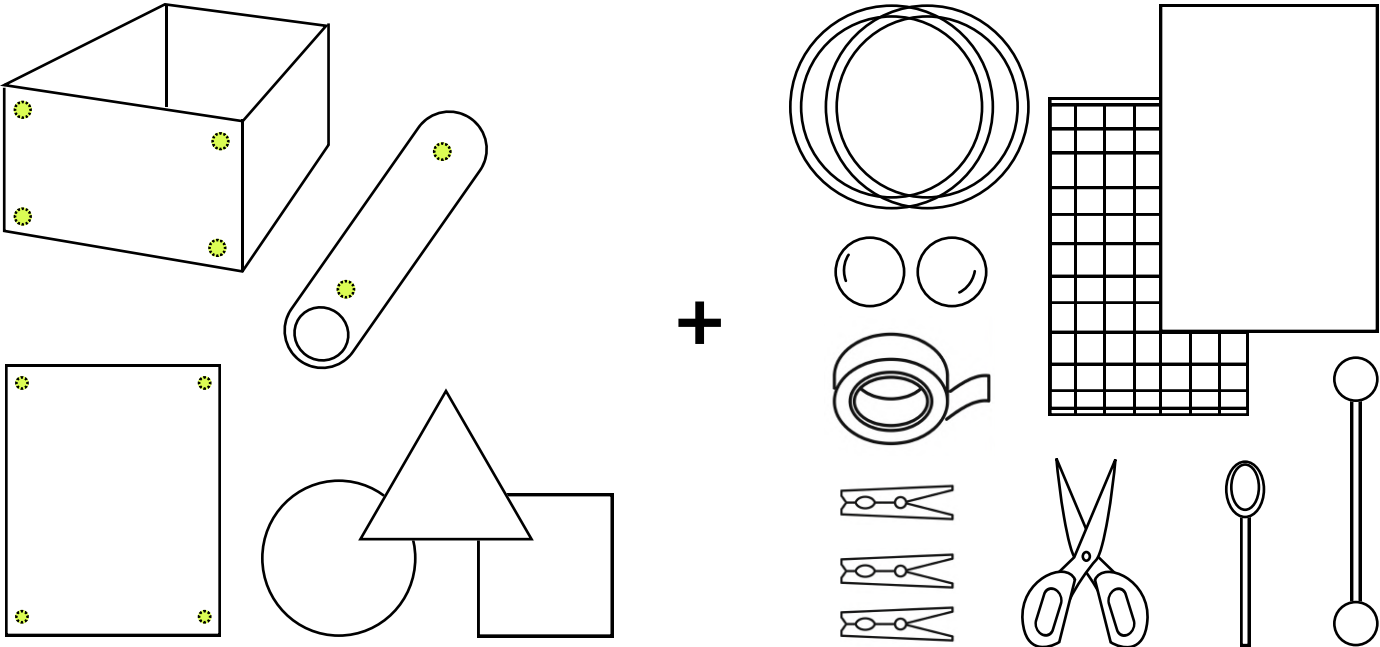
Materials



- 1 **A base** such as a cardboard box, bucket, or large plastic container
- 2 **Tools** such as scissors, masking tape, string, and clips
- 3 **Sound-making materials** such as recycled paper towel rolls, kitchen utensils, funnels, plastic bottles/containers/cups, soft wire, rocks, marbles, bottle caps, sheets of aluminum foil or mylar, and newspaper

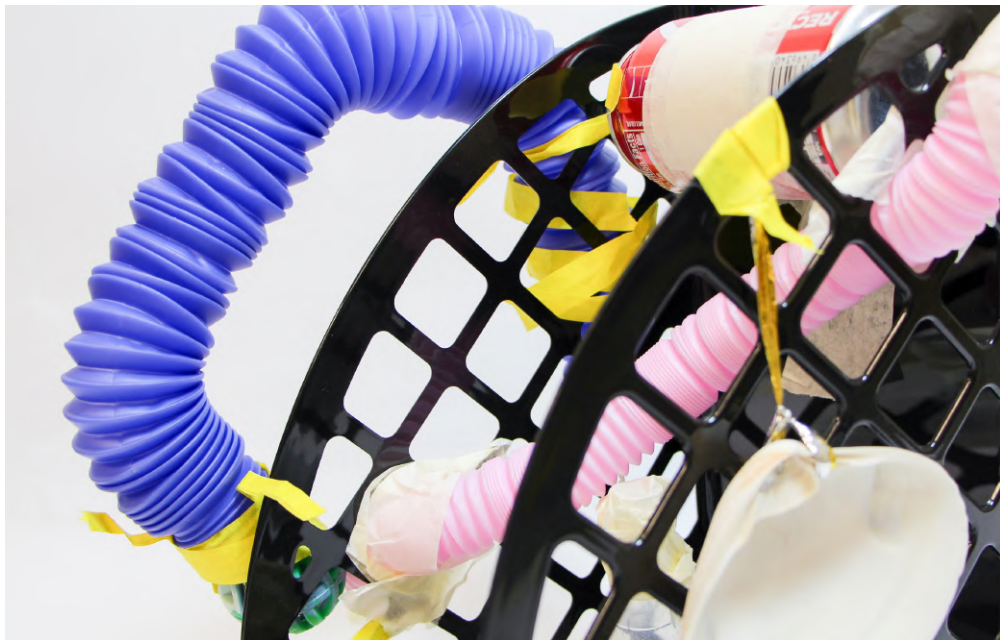


Let's Get Ready!



Step 1

Arrange the sound sculpture base, tools, and sound-making materials in an open space on the floor or a table. Provide a variety of sizes of materials. If using a cardboard box, you could cut some holes so children can easily slot materials into them.



Let's Play!



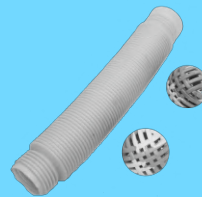
What words can we use to describe this sound?

Invite children to explore the sounds the different materials make. You could prompt their curiosity using the questions on this page.

How can you make loud/soft sounds with the materials?



Play with materials alongside the children, subtly demonstrating how they can make different sounds with the materials (e.g. scrunching the paper or shaking rocks in a plastic container). You could also show them how they can use the tape, string, and scissors to attach the materials together.



Try narrating children's actions as they play, e.g. I can see you are spending a lot of time... I like the way you are...

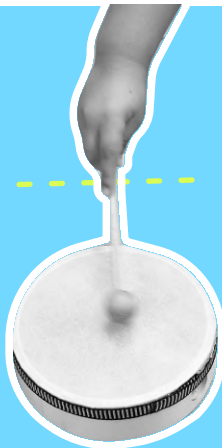


Some children might prefer to use noise-canceling headphones while working on sound sculptures



What does this sound remind you of?

Some children may focus on the vibration rather than the volume of sound that materials produce



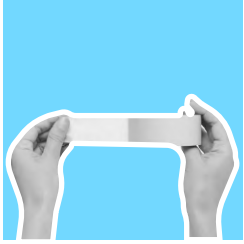
How can we attach the materials together?



Invite them to watch a video performance of Nick Cave's Sound Suits! →



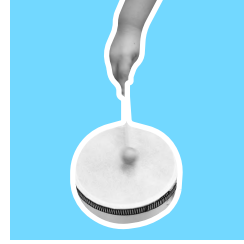
Art Techniques



Sticking tape



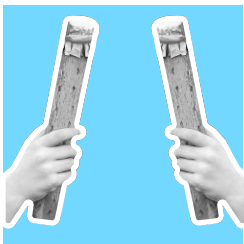
Constructing



Tapping



Scrunching



Shaking



Listening

Vocabulary

Amplify

to make louder

Loud (sound)

easy to hear

Soft (sound)

quiet

Sculpture

a three-dimensional artwork

Nick Cave

Nick Cave loves to make art that people can wear on their bodies. He calls these costume-like sculptures 'Soundsuits', and they are often made out of colorful fabrics, beads, found objects, and even natural materials like sticks and feathers. People can wear the Soundsuits and as they move around in them, they make sounds.



Nick Cave, a Chicago-based performance artist.



Nick was born in Fulton, Missouri, and grew up extremely aware of how people's physical appearance could impact how they were treated and judged. His Soundsuits hide a person's body and therefore hide their race, gender, and class of the person, allowing viewers to look at them without bias relating to their identity.

Let's Observe!

- What materials and objects do you see?
- What sounds do you think these costumes would make?
- How are the pieces balanced together?

Scan to watch videos of the *Sound Suits* in action:



Nick Cave Heard



A Live Performance of Nick Cave's Soundsuits - Vogue



Nick Cave, *Sound Suits* (2009-2013). Buttons, wire, bugle beads, wood and upholstery, mixed media including vintage fabric and metal, sweaters, and pipe cleaners. Photo by James Prinz Photography. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York