



Credit: K.shinde/UNEP/still pictures

Windy music

With this activity we will be making a wind chime which can double as a wind-speed monitor, demonstrating also that the wind has energy which can produce sound.

You will need

- A selection of materials (a good way to recycle tin cans, old spoons, etc.)
- Twine, manufactured or natural
- Offcuts of different lengths of bamboo (from a garden centre)
- Lengths of dowel

Steps

1

Decide on the type of sound you want. Experiment with the materials, listen to the sound they make when you tie them to string and make them collide.

2

Select about five objects that you like the sound of.

3

Tie two pieces of dowel together in a cross shape. This makes the top frame from which to hang your objects.

4

Start hanging the objects from the dowel frame. Tie them onto the dowel one at a time and hold up your frame to make sure it balances. Hang some of the bamboo offcuts among the objects.

5

Vary the length of the twine for each object so your sounds won't all happen at the same time.

6

Hold out the mobile and test it gently. You may need to adjust the distances between the objects or the length of the twine to make sure it balances.

7

Try to find a secure place outside to hang your mobile.

Analysis/ discussion

The stronger the wind, the louder the mobile will be. How could the mobile be updated to work in a gentle breeze?

Where is the best place to hang the mobile? Are there any places inside with a breeze or other air movement, such as near a door that regularly opens and closes?

How have people tried to harness the energy from the wind?

In The Wizard of Oz a tornado had the power to lift up and move a house. If your house was lifted up and moved, where would you like it to land and why?