



## In Concert with the Environment

### Music is all around us...

Just take a moment to listen ...what do you hear?

The natural environment has many sounds, such as rain, wind, rushing water, crashing waves, thunder, and the howling of coyotes. Many of these sounds even come from our backyard... the scampering of squirrels, the chirping of birds, the barking of dogs, and purring of cats.



Have you heard the rumble of an earthquake? Have you noticed how quiet it gets when it's snowing? Did you know that sound waves bounce off the snowflakes causing sounds to be muffled?

Snowflakes also collect pollutants in the air as they fall, cleaning the air.

The urban environment has man-made sounds, such as musical instruments, whir of tires, the roar of engines, construction equipment, recycle trucks, trains, the ring of the school bell, and the chirping of cross walk signals.

### Keep the music in tune...

How we take care of our environment can result in impacts to the music it makes. Just as when we don't

take care of instruments, or keep them in tune, the music will not be as sweet. If we don't take care of the environment, pollution and sprawl clogs the works!

### Conservation...

Conserving our resources in the urban environment will help to protect the natural environment, keeping habitats healthy.

It is up to all of us to use our heads, hearts and hands to work together to make sure that we live in harmony with the environment so that the music continues for a long time. Join in today, knowing that every kid has a place in making the music in the band, orchestra, and the world!

### Come in harmony...

Come dance to music at the free KPBX Kids Concerts:

♪ **February 2**, 1 p.m. at the Bing Crosby Theater with Cap'n Ruby and the Scurvy Dogs.

♪ **March 1**, 1 p.m. at the Masonic Center Auditorium with the Silver Spurs.



EnviroKids' Club is a way for you to team up with other kids in Spokane County -- exploring all aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage & recycling, plants & animals, and you & your environment.

EnviroKids' Club members will receive an activity in the mail four times a year. Complete the activity, and return it to the Club Headquarters (address and form below) and you will earn points towards a special prize. Information about the new point system and the prizes will be sent soon. The EnviroKids' Club is for children in grades K-6, who live in Spokane County.

**MAIL COMPLETED ACTIVITY BY APRIL 30, 2008 TO: EnviroKids' Club, c/o National Weather Service, 2601 N. Rambo Rd, Spokane, WA 99224.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities and to have name/picture used in ads/website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature and Date

# Let's Make & Listen to Music!

## Reflection

Sit outside and write down three kinds of “music” from the natural environment. Find a place where you can write down three kinds of “music” from the urban environment. Send in your observations to earn points towards EnviroKids’ Club prizes.

Natural Environment	Urban Environment
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

## Make Recycled Instruments

You can make neat instruments by reusing old items around the house. Next, submit your instruments in action to earn points - send a photo, drawing or audio version of you using one or more of your new instruments.

**Tambourine** - Staple two paper plates together with uncooked dried beans and rice inside.

**Drums** - Pick a container - coffee can, plastic bucket, oatmeal carton. If it doesn't have its own lid, make one with from a brown paper bag. Secure covering with a rubber band. Find the beat!

**Glass harmonica** - You can make a glass of water sing! (Have an adult help you.)

1. Start with an empty glass (crystal wine glasses work best).
2. Wet your clean finger and rub the rim of the glass, going round and round the rim. After a while you will hear a humming sound.
3. Put some water in the glass, at happens to the tone?
4. Dip your finger in salt water or oil. Does your glass still sing?
5. Try putting differing amounts of water in multiple glasses. Do they sound alike or different? Now you can have a glass harmonica symphony for your friends and family.



**Rain Stick** - You'll need some supplies;

paper towel tube                      aluminum foil  
markers or crayons                      scissors  
masking tape or glue                      brown paper (from bag)  
pea gravel (or dried beans or rice)

1. Make two caps by tracing around the end of the tube onto a piece of brown paper. Draw a bigger circle around that circle and repeat. Cut out the the two big circles.
2. Glue a cap onto one end of your tube.
3. Cut two pieces of aluminum foil that 1 ½ times longer than your tube and 6” wide. Crunch the foil into 2 long, thin, snake-like shapes. Then twist each one into a spring shape.
4. Put the aluminum foil springs into your tube.
5. Pour a handful of pea gravel into the tube. The tube should only be about 1/10 full. Experiment on how different types of seeds/beans/rice change the sound.
6. Glue the other cap to the open end of the tube.
7. Decorate the tube using crayons or markers
8. You're done. Turn it over and listen to the rain!

## Did you know?

The rain stick is a ceremonial musical instrument from South America. It was used to invoke the rain spirits. Traditionally, rain sticks are made from the dead cactus tubes with hundreds of cactus spines hammered into the tube. Tiny lava pebbles cascade gently through the tube, sounding a lot like rain.

Ben Franklin designed his own “glass armonica” in 1761. He made chords and lively melodies possible on his new invention by hiring a glass blower to make a few dozen glass bowls. Each bowl was made with the correct size and thickness to give the desired pitch without being filled with water.