

# CLUCKING CHICKEN CUPS



## MATERIALS:

- A Plastic Drinking Cup (Solo cups work well, but any plastic cup will do).
- 2 Feet of Yarn or Cotton String
- 1 paper clip (optional)
- 1 small square of sponge (approximately 2" x 1") OR a Damp Paper Towel
- A Nail or Thumbtack (with adult supervision)
- 1 Piece of Craft Foam (yellow or other "chicken colors" OR any colors you'd like)
- 1-3 feathers
- Scotch Tape
- Two Googly Eyes
- Scissors
- Water

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Ask an adult to use a nail or thumbtack to punch a hole in the bottom of the cup.
2. Tie one end of the yarn to the middle of the paper clip.
3. Push the other end of the yarn or string through the hole in the cup and pull it through as shown in the picture. The paperclip will keep the string from slipping through the hole. If you don't have a paperclip, you can just tie a knot in the end of the string to keep it from slipping through.

**NOTE:** If you have trouble getting the yarn or string through the hole, try wrapping the end in piece of scotch tape so it looks like the end of a shoelace.

4. Using the craft foam, googly eyes, feathers, and scissors...decorate your cup to look like a chicken (or a duck or a turkey or a goose OR a Churkendoose!).

5. Dampen the sponge with a little water. If you don't have a sponge, dampen a paper towel or napkin.

6. Hold the cup firmly in one hand, and wrap the sponge around the string near the cup. While you squeeze the string with the sponge, pull down in short jerks so that the paper the sponge tightly slides along the string. You should hear a chicken clucking!

**IF YOU WANT TO POST YOUR CHICKEN CUP, LET US KNOW WITH #STORYOLOGIST!**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

You've created a **sound board!** The damp sponge creates friction on the string which leads to vibrations. The cup amplifies these vibrations, which means it spreads them out and makes them louder. Without the cup, the same action would be almost silent.

This is the same thing that happens in a piano– the wood inside the instrument amplifies the sound of the vibrations that we hear as music.

## EXPERIMENT WITH SOUND

What types of string makes the loudest sound?

What if you used a different cup?

What if the sponge or paper towel is dry? Does it still make a sound? Why do you think that is?