



ACTIVITY

## Build a Drum

Marines trained to the beat of a drum; certain numbers of beats required Marines to perform specific actions. Marines musicians also played the drums to communicate commands to the crew. Have your student create their own drum in this activity, and then listen to some examples of colonial fife & drum calls.

### Materials (per drum):

- Empty cylindrical container (oatmeal canister, popcorn tin, coffee can, bucket, etc)
- 8 sheets of parchment paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Large rubber band
- Construction Paper
- Markers
- 2 wooden dowels

### Directions:

1. Remove the lid from the container so that one end is open.
2. Place the container open side down onto the parchment paper and draw a circle one inch away from the opening.
3. Following the circle just drawn, cut all 8 pieces of parchment paper to the correct size.
4. Spread a thin layer of glue completely covering the surface of one piece of paper and continue to repeat the process until all 8 sheets are stuck together.
5. Center the drum frame on the glued-together parchment paper and glue it down, using a rubber band to secure it.
6. Cut the construction paper to cover the outside of the drum and decorate with markers using this image as a reference.
7. Glue the construction paper to the outside of the drum frame.
8. Once dry, use the wooden dowels as drum sticks to play your new drum!