



MAKING MUSIC

CHALLENGE

Create an instrument that
you can play.



GET YOUR GEAR



small and
large rubber
bands



jumbo
craft sticks



shoe boxes



metal
coffee cans



paper plates



dried beans



HINT:

Mix and match materials to create different sounds.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Sound is caused by vibrations, or invisible waves, moving through the air. Sound is created when vibrations cause tiny particles (molecules) to bump into each other. The particles keep bumping into each other—like a line of falling dominoes—until they reach a receiver like your ear, where they are heard as sound.

Sound can only move through matter like air or water. So, there is no sound in space because there is no air for it to move through.



Does playing the instrument harder, softer, or longer make a different sound?



Add another material to your instrument. Does it sound better or worse? Why?



Design another instrument that uses vibration to make sound.



Decorate your instrument. Can you make it look nicer without changing the sound?



Does the size or shape of the materials affect the sound? How?