DIY Chicken Cuíca

A Cuíca is a Brazilian drum that uses friction to make sound. It has a wooden stick on the inside attached to the head of the drum. By rubbing a cloth along the stick, the player makes a squeaking sound. Some people say it sounds like laughter, a monkey, or a chicken!

For an example of the sound a traditional Brazilian Cuíca makes, visit the following website: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVOtE1qSymU

Making your own cuíca, or “Chicken Cup” is easy! To make one, you will need:

★ A plastic cup, such as a Solo cup
★ A piece of string 12”-15” long
★ A paperclip
★ A piece of a sponge about 1” by 3”
★ A nail or something similar, to poke a hole in the cup
★ Decorations! Be creative! Some ideas are:
  ○ Feathers
  ○ Googly eyes
  ○ Paint
  ○ Markers
  ○ Paper
  ○ Glue

1. Use the nail to poke a hole in the bottom of the cup
2. Tie the string around the paperclip, then thread the string through the hole
   ○ The string should be inside the cup, leaving the paperclip on the top of the cup
3. Tie the end of the string around the sponge so that the sponge hangs from the end of the string
4. Decorate! Here’s some ideas to make it look like a chicken:
   ○ Stick a few feathers into the hole at the top
   ○ Add googly eyes, or draw eyes on with permanent markers (washable markers will wipe right off)
   ○ Draw a triangle shape for a beak, or make a beak out of paper by cutting out a triangle like the one to the right, fold on the dotted lines, then glue the end that you folded to the cup

That’s it! Your Cuíca Chicken Drum is now complete and ready to play! Just wet the sponge (squeeze out the extra water), pinch it around the top of the string, and pull the sponge down the string to make the chicken sounds!