

## Feng Shui Chimes

Hear that? It's the sound of musical art!

(art + social studies, art + music)

Wind-driven, sound-inducing sculpture has a long and varied history — from the rattle of dried bones hung in ancient gardens to scare away birds to chimes placed on early ships to alert crews to wind changes.

Beginning in China around 1000 BC, bells cast in bronze by skilled artisans were placed near temples to repel evil spirits and enhance religious ceremonies. Use of wind chimes in homes soon followed and the tradition migrated to South Asia, Japan, and eventually Europe and the Americas. As each culture incorporated its own significance and materials, the tranquil sounds and movement of wind chimes continued to be enjoyed around the world.

Wind chimes are important to the Chinese philosophy of feng shui (translated as “wind-water” in English), believing that the mood and energy of a person’s living space can be positively influenced by the tone, construction materials, and placement of a wind chime.

Creating a wind chime is easy. Creating a wind chime that sounds good isn’t as easy. Vibration is key, and if components are blocked from vibrating, they tend to “clunk” rather than ring. This process uses hollow metal tubing and metal rings that provide a metallic chime as they strike one another.

### GRADES 3-12

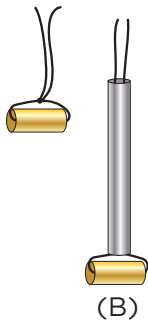
Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

#### Preparation

1. Drill holes in the center of wood basket bases for suspending the clapper and for hanging.

#### Process

1. Paint designs on wood basket bases using opaque acrylic paint. Allow to dry. Take caution not to clog holes with paint.
2. The chimes can be strung while the paint is drying. (A) Begin with a 20–24” piece of lightweight cotton string. Loop it through a small metal tube and double the string back so the ends are even. Tie a knot just above the small tube (A), then string a large tube above it so it is hammer-shaped (B). This assembly allows for the tubes to vibrate with a minimum of interference when struck.



#### Materials (required)

**Creativity Street Wood Basket Base, 3” round (60417-1003);** need one per student

**Hygloss Book Rings, 2”Dia, package of 50 assorted colors (64203-1004);** share one package across class

**K&S Metal Sizes and Shapes, 1 lb assortment (33719-7070);** share two packages across class

**Maysville Cotton Warp, 8 oz, 800 yd spool, assorted colors (62800-);** share one across class

**Blick Matte Acrylics, 2 oz, assorted colors (00727-);** share at least three colors across class

**Big Kid Bead Assortment, 1 lb (60792-1001);** share one bag across class

**Nylon Jewelry Cord, 25 yd spool, White (60616-2025);** share one spool across class

#### Optional Materials

**Assorted Metallized Beads, 8 oz mix (60776-1008)**

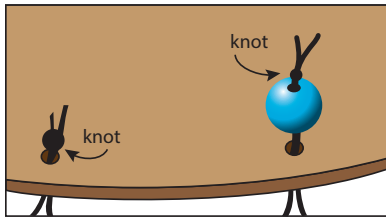
**Rainbow Glass Beads, 330 g (61521-1010)**

**Sargent Art Sculpt-It Air-Hardening Clay, 2 lb (33269-1001)**

**Jewelry Charm Assortment, 100 pieces (63832-1100)**



(C)

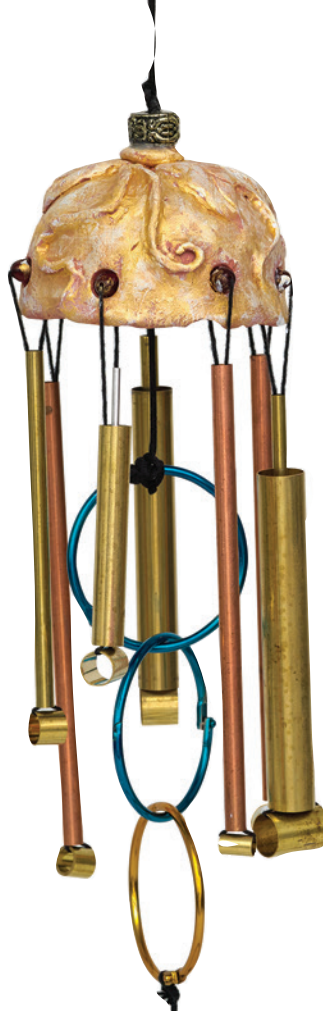
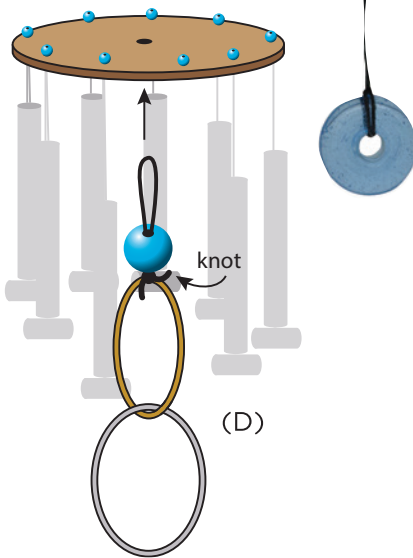


### Process, continues

3. Pull strings through the bottom side of the painted wood disk. Tie a knot close to the hole on the top side. For added decoration, thread the strings through a bead on the top side of the plaque, then tie a knot, (C).
4. After all chimes are in place, assemble the hanger and clapper. For safety, use a stronger cord to create a loop for hanging the wind chime. Cut an 8" long piece and double it over. Thread a bead onto the string and form a 1" high loop in the center of the string, just above the bead (D). Tie a knot beneath the bead. With remaining string, tie a 2" metal book ring to form a clapper. Thread the loop up through the center hole of the wood base. Apply a drop of strong glue or hot glue into the hole to secure the loop.
5. Materials specified are not outdoor grade. Hang your wind chime in a sheltered area or indoors for best results.

### Options:

- Many wind chimes have a "sail" that hangs from the bottom of the clapper. The sail is designed to catch breezes and create motion. Sails can be made from many materials including beads, wood pieces, and "found" objects.
- Use air-dry or firing clay for the wind chime body, rather than a painted wood base.



**Step 1:** Paint the wood basket base with acrylic paint.



**Step 2:** Assemble chimes. Thread through holes in base and tie knots to secure.



**Step 3:** Create a hanger and clapper with nylon cord, a bead, and metal book rings.

## National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

### Creating

**Anchor Standard 2:** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

### Connecting

**Anchor Standard 11:** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.