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Pran, Mira, and Raúl
create musical
instruments from
household items in
preparation for a party.

Ages: 4 to 8 years

ATOS Reading Level:
n/a

Lexile: n/a

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Sounds of Trash

Will Pran, Raúl, and Mira save the community block party?

What is STEAM? Learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Through STEAM, children problem-solve, innovate, create, and collaborate.

STEAM Topics in This Book: comparing, creating, days of the week, engineering, designing, patterns, sound

Activities To Do Together: In the book, *Sounds of Trash*, Pran, Raúl, and Mira design, problem solve, and recycle to create musical instruments in support of the community party. When children identify a problem; imagine solutions; then design, test, and improve a product, they build creative skills that support learning across multiple content areas including engineering, mathematics, science, and the arts.

Before reading the book:

- Look for items inside and outside that make sounds (a door closing or leaves rustling in trees) together. Talk about how the sounds are the same and different.
- Listen to or sing a favorite song. Talk about the sounds you hear (high vs. low pitches, fast vs. slow tempo).

While reading the book:

- Pran dreams about an ensemble of instruments. Ask your child about musical instruments that they have heard. What types of sounds do the instruments make?
- Pran, Mira, and Raúl create several musical instruments. What kinds of sounds do you think their instruments make?

When you have finished reading the book:

- Music contains patterns. Compose a short song by creating a pattern with sounds using your body (clapping hands, thumping knees). Repeat your pattern.
- Create an instrument using a paper towel roll or toilet paper roll. Cover one end with cardboard and tape; partially fill the roll with rice, pebbles, or sand; and cover the other end. What does it sound like when you shake it? How does it sound different if you tip it slowly?



Questions for STEAM Thinking:

1. Why do you think Pran, Mira, and Raúl sketch ideas before they begin designing?
2. Pran, Mira, and Raúl identified a problem in their community. What is a problem that you would like to solve?
3. What items could you use to make instruments? What sounds would they make?
4. What sounds can you think of that are loud? Which ones are soft? Can you think of any that sound high? Which sounds are low?

Early Math Project Resources:

Visit [Sounds of Trash](https://countplayexplore.org/book/sounds-of-trash) (countplayexplore.org/book/sounds-of-trash) to find activities and related California Learning Foundations, Mathematics Standards, and/or Next Generation Science Standards for this book.

Vocabulary

STEAM words found in the story: beats, design, ensemble, imagine, instruments, materials, music, percussion, problem, sketch, sounds, test, tone

Related STEAM words: engineering design process, frequency, tension, vibrations

Words to build reading comprehension:

bhangra, dhol, pluck, shrill, sitar, strum, tablas, tandoor, thrum, twang, xylophone

Spanish Title: *Cómo suena la basura*

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Related Books: *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires; *Earth Day–Hooray!* by Stuart J. Murphy; *Michael Recycle* by Ellie Bethel

For additional STEAMWORKS books visit the [series website](https://countplayexplore.org) or enter steamworksbooks.com.

Click this link to the [World Catalog](https://bit.ly/4qQWEQt) or enter bit.ly/4qQWEQt to find *Sounds of Trash* in the public library.



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