

Activity Guidelines

Found Sound Round 1

Making music in the round using found objects to inspire creative sound making and movement in the group.

Ages 4+

Groups size 4 or more

Ready

The basic idea of this activity is to send people off into the surroundings to 'find' a sound. We then gather in a circle and hear the "found sounds". Once we have done this we take turns at playing being a conductor to create a musical performance using the found sounds as instruments.

The idea behind this activity sprung was inspired by something I read about Aboriginal Australian people in Bruce Chatwin's book *Songlines* and also by an experience I once had in a Stone Circle in Scotland, which left me thinking that humans have power to bring the spirit of the land alive through song and music. If you want to know more...come on a [Natural Musicians](#) training workshop!

Get Set

No kit is needed at all and this activity can be done almost anywhere and the objects not have to be 'natural' - I did it on a building site once!

Go!

"Today we are going to make some music from the landscape. We will be the voices of the things we find interesting. In a moment I would like you to wander off into the (park) and look for something that interests you... something small enough to bring back to the circle and show everyone else. When you pick it up, imagine what kind of sound it would make if it could. Maybe it is a stick that would make a "snap!" or it could be a personal interpretation and expression of the shape of an object - for example a thorn could make an "ouw!" sound!" I sully give a demonstration too.

When we gather again in a circle people take turns to show their object and share the sound (and possibly movement) they felt inspired to make when connecting with it.

Once we have been round the circle and everyone has had a chance to make a noise I then step in holding some kind of conductor's baton.

"Right everybody, you are now my orchestra! I am going to conduct my latest work for you and you are going to be my instruments! When I point to you, please make your sound."

I then conduct a short piece and when finished bow extravagantly and we all share a round of applause.

I then offer the baton to anyone else willing to have a go.

Next time round I suggest that as a 'director' you can give the conductor another tool - they can ask the musicians to keep on playing by giving a 'keep on going' gesture, or that they have the power to raise and lower the instruments volume. Good luck. Have fun!