



# Learning musical instruments

A great way to introduce instruments to young children and teach an important musical concept like rhythm is to use everyday objects found in the home and treat it like a percussive instrument.



## Home activities to do with your Preschooler

Week 38: May 18 – May 22

- Science experiment: Water glass xylophone.
- Gross motor activities: Simon says & Freeze dance movement.
- Musical instrument sensory play.
- Musical instrument crafts.

Special activities and STEAM



- There's nothing much better for enhancing language development than singing. The flow of the music helps the flow of words, and the powerful combination of melody and words, especially songs with repetitive phrases, gives children exposure to and practice with forming words.

Language



- Measurement is such a fun concept to teach, because it's something that children see everywhere around them. Helping them recognize and quantify the differences in size, weight and other measurable attributes really is giving them words to express things they've already noticed but maybe didn't understand.

Cognitive



- Giving your child encouragement and opportunities to practice courage is important, but respecting their own development and personalities is important as well.
- Provide safe space to take risks and provide models of having courage.

Social-emotional



- You can help your child connect spoken and written words by having them draw a picture. They can tell a story about it. You can write out the story under the picture just as your child tells it. Then read it back to them.

Fine motor



- The most important thing you can do is to give your child the time, space, and opportunity to move.
- Freestyle dancing can be a fun and unstructured way to move the body and enhance gross motor skill development.

Gross motor



## Morning Meeting

- Discovering Venezuela.  
Sing and move: "Que bonita bandera" "What a beautiful flag of Venezuela"

PLAY SONG



- › Learn about the flag of Venezuela!  
(Go to page 7 to find the worksheet)
- › Learn some basic Spanish words with your child and made an effort to use them at the rest of this week:

Please — por favor  
Thank you — gracias  
Yes — sí  
No — no

## Gross motor activity:

### “Simon dice” - “Simon says”

Continue the tradition with your own kids!

Simon Says is great for all sorts of development. It helps toddlers learn to listen better and to pay close attention to what is being said.

It's also a great gross motor activity. For example, Simon Says:

- Hop on one foot / Salta sobre un pie
- Jump as high as you can / Salta tan alto como puedas
- Do jumping jacks / Haz saltos
- Touch your toes / Tócate los dedos de los pies

You can add tons of gross motor skills into just one game!

## Sensory play — Maracas / Music shakers

The maraca in Venezuela has been present mainly among native people. It is used to go along with the dance, as a toy among children.

**Watch this video for learn how to make maracas!**



This maracas are made from plastic bottles and cardboard tubes. Use recycled materials from your home to create a fun rhythm instrument perfect for your child.

Maracas are one of the simplest instruments to play for young children or the beginning musician. Put one in each hand and rock out! You can let your kids experiment with shaking them in different ways or encourage them to move and dance while playing them. You can make a pair for yourself and create rhythms together.

PLAY SONG



Morning Meeting: Learning musical instruments in Spanish.

- Let's Sing and Move: La Canción de los Instrumentos | The instruments song

PLAY SONG



Guided learning: Hair cutting activity.

Painting letters with water is a great pre-writing activity for preschoolers.

It lets them practice their fine motor skills, reinforces letter recognition and letter sounds, builds spelling skills, encourages name recognition and spelling.



Science experiment: Water Glass Xylophone



Create your own rainbow water glass xylophone using a few simple supplies. Learn about how sound waves travel, how different pitches are produced, and have fun playing on your own homemade water glass xylophone musical instrument!

Here's what you need:

- 8 identical drinking glasses or Recycle empty glass bottles
- Water
- Measuring cups
- Food coloring
- Plastic spoon
- Wooden spoon

Directions:

- › Fill the bottles with water to gradually increasing levels and add food coloring. Next take the spoon and experiment with the water xylophone.
- › Hitting the glass on the side made one kind of sound.
- › Hitting the glass on the top with the flat side of the spoon produced another kind of sound.

Each glass sounded differently based on how much water was in the glass. The bottles with less water sounded higher in pitch than the bottles with more water in them. The reason is that the more water in the glass, the less the glass is able to vibrate and therefore it produces a lower sound.



# Miércoles

## Wednesday

Something to Consider: Gross motor skills are movements that help children develop large muscle control in arms, legs and the entire body.

### Morning Meeting

- Let's Sing and Move: Cuando La Banda Marchando Viene / When the Marching Band Comes

PLAY SONG



### Gross motor activity: Baile del movimiento / Freeze dance painting



If you haven't played freeze dance before it's a fun stop and go dance game. When the music plays you dance and when the music stops you freeze in place.

For freeze dance painting, pour paint into a frisbee for your little one to step in. Once their feet are covered in paint they can jump on the paper and dance to the music.

PLAY SONG



### Project time: Pandereta / Paper plate tambourine craft

Your kids will love to get singing and dancing with this colourful paper plate tambourine craft!

Here's what you need:

- Paper Plate
- Paint
- Ribbon
- Jingle Bells
- Cotton Balls
- Glue



Directions:

- > You can of course paint your homemade tambourine any colour you like.
- > Once the paint is dry, fold your paper plate in half and use a hole punch to punch through your paper plate. Make sure both sides of the plate are lined up and punched through.
- > To make the paper plate tambourine nice and plump and soft to hold you can stuff the inside with some cotton balls.
- > Cut some short sections of ribbon and thread them through the bells and then tie them on to your tambourine craft.
- > Finish off your paper plate tambourine craft by glueing the edges of the plate together.

Jingle Jangle! Your gorgeous rainbow paper plate tambourine is now finished and ready for playing. Homemade instruments are such fun and a fantastic way to inspire musical creativity and experimentation in your kids.

## Morning Meeting

- Let's Sing and Move: Nuestro amigo Barney tiene una banda / Our friend Barney have a band

PLAY SONG



## Sensory play: Salt drawing

Let your toddler explore their creative side with some Sensory Salt Drawing. This is such a fun sensory play activity for preschoolers.

Here's what you need:

- Baking / Cookie Tray
- Fine Salt
- food coloring



Directions:

Add your salt into a zip lock bag, add a few drops of food colouring, zip it up and give it a shake. Simply lay it out of a flat tray to dry and then you are ready for some fabulous salty, sensory play!

Let your child use their imagination making strokes and drawings in the salt.

## Project time: Palo de Lluvia/Rain stick

Traditional rain sticks are instruments made from dried cacti, thorns & pebbles. When held vertically, the falling pebbles sound similar to falling rain.

Here's what you need:

- long cardboard tube
- some toothpicks
- pieces of cardboard to seal the tube
- handful of rice or wheat or any other grains.

Directions:

- Take the cardboard tube and in a pattern pierce it with toothpicks. If the tooth picks are not strong enough make holes in the tube and insert the toothpicks. While making the holes, make sure that you don't make large but small holes.
- After inserting all the toothpicks, close one end of the tube with a cardboard piece and seal it off with glue.
- Let it dry for few hours.
- Now pour in the grains and seal the other end as well.
- Now, whenever you turn the tube upside down the grains falling down will strike the toothpicks and create a sound similar to rain.

All that's left to do is come up with your own song & dance to shake and move your rain stick to!



## Morning Meeting: Identifying Musical Instruments

- Let's Sing and move: La orquesta / the orchestra

PLAY SONG



## Sensory play: Oil and Water Sensory Bottles

Here's what you need:

- Bottles
- Baby Oil
- Water
- Food colouring or liquid water colours
- Food Colouring
- Funnel



Directions:

- > Start by filling half of the bottle up with water and add a few drops of either food colouring or liquid watercolours. Give it a good swish to spread the colour throughout the water.
- > In a separate bowl add your oil and food colouring. Now this part is very important. You need to make sure that this food colouring is oil based or it wont colour the oil.
- > Place the funnel into your bottle and pour your oil in.
- > Then put the lid back on and securely tighten it. You can glue the lids into place to make sure there are no accidental spillages.

## Guided learning: Lego measurement

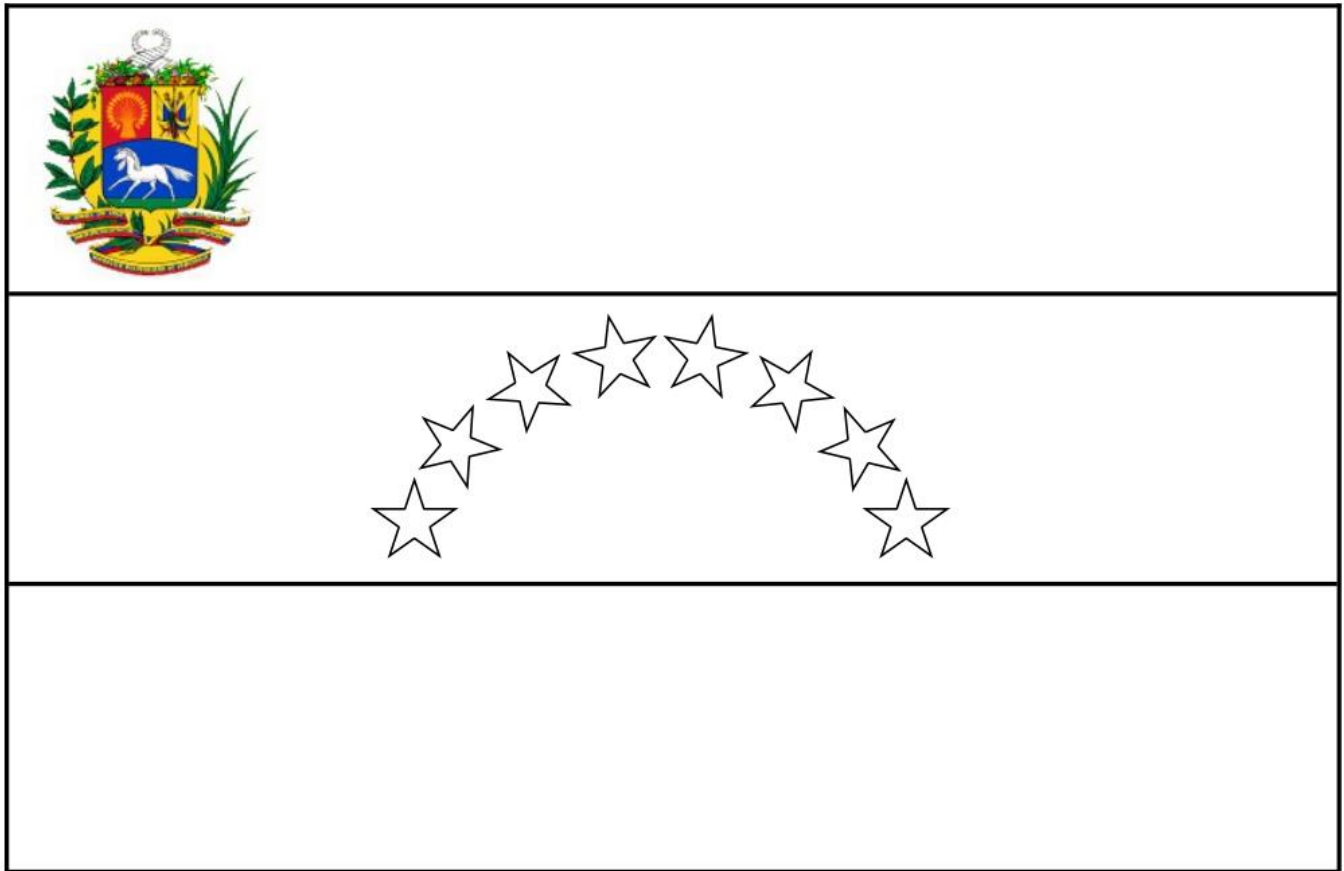


Using non-standard units (like lego blocks, your own feet, etc...) to introduce your child to measurement is a fun and functional way of doing it. They can see and manipulate these units and are familiar with them as well.

## Making the most of routines: Transitions “Elephants and mice”

This is a great imitation game that can be enjoyed as a family. Have fun acting out animals with your child. Invite your child to stomp their feet heavily like an elephant or walk very lightly, like a mouse, between routines, for example when it's time to wash their hands or get dressed to go outside. You could also display a picture of an elephant and a picture of a mouse on a wall and point to the corresponding animal whenever you want children to move like an elephant or a mouse.

# La Bandera de Venezuela - The flag of Venezuela



*Color the flag of the Venezuela. The top band is yellow, the center band is blue, and the bottom band is red. The eight stars in the center band are white.*

The national flag of Venezuela is a tri-band of three colors: yellow, blue, and red. The yellow band holds eight white stars. The coat of arms is shown in the top left corner {on the hoist side of the flag}. The flag was designed by Francisco de Miranda in 1806.

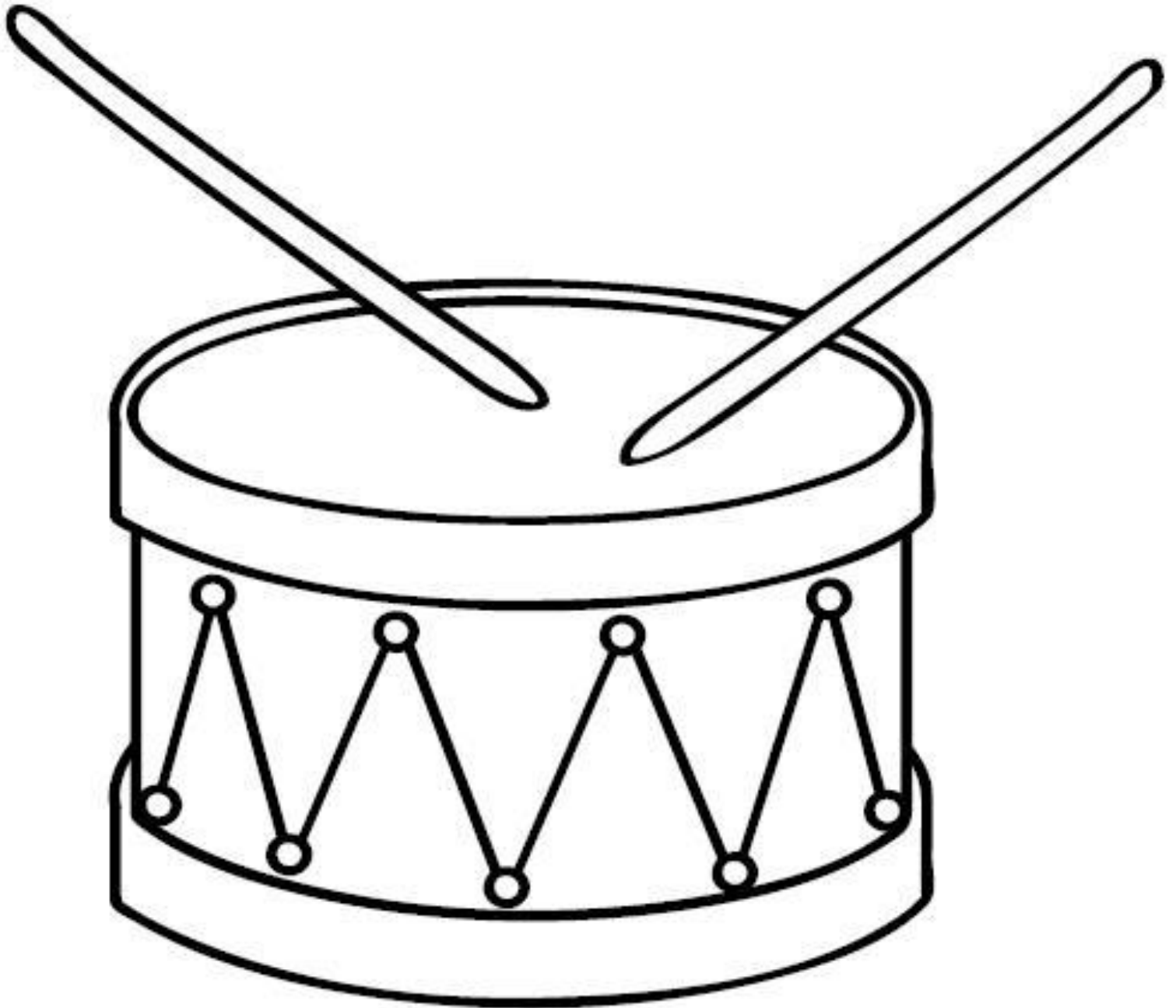
Only seven stars were added to the flag in 1836 and symbolize the seven provinces that supported Venezuela's independence. The eighth star was added in 2006 to represent Guyana. The yellow color in the flag represents the wealth of the land, the blue symbolizes the courage, and the red represents the country's independence from Spain.



# Handwriting practice

Directions: Color the drum and trace the word.

Instrucciones: Colorea el tambor y traza la palabra.



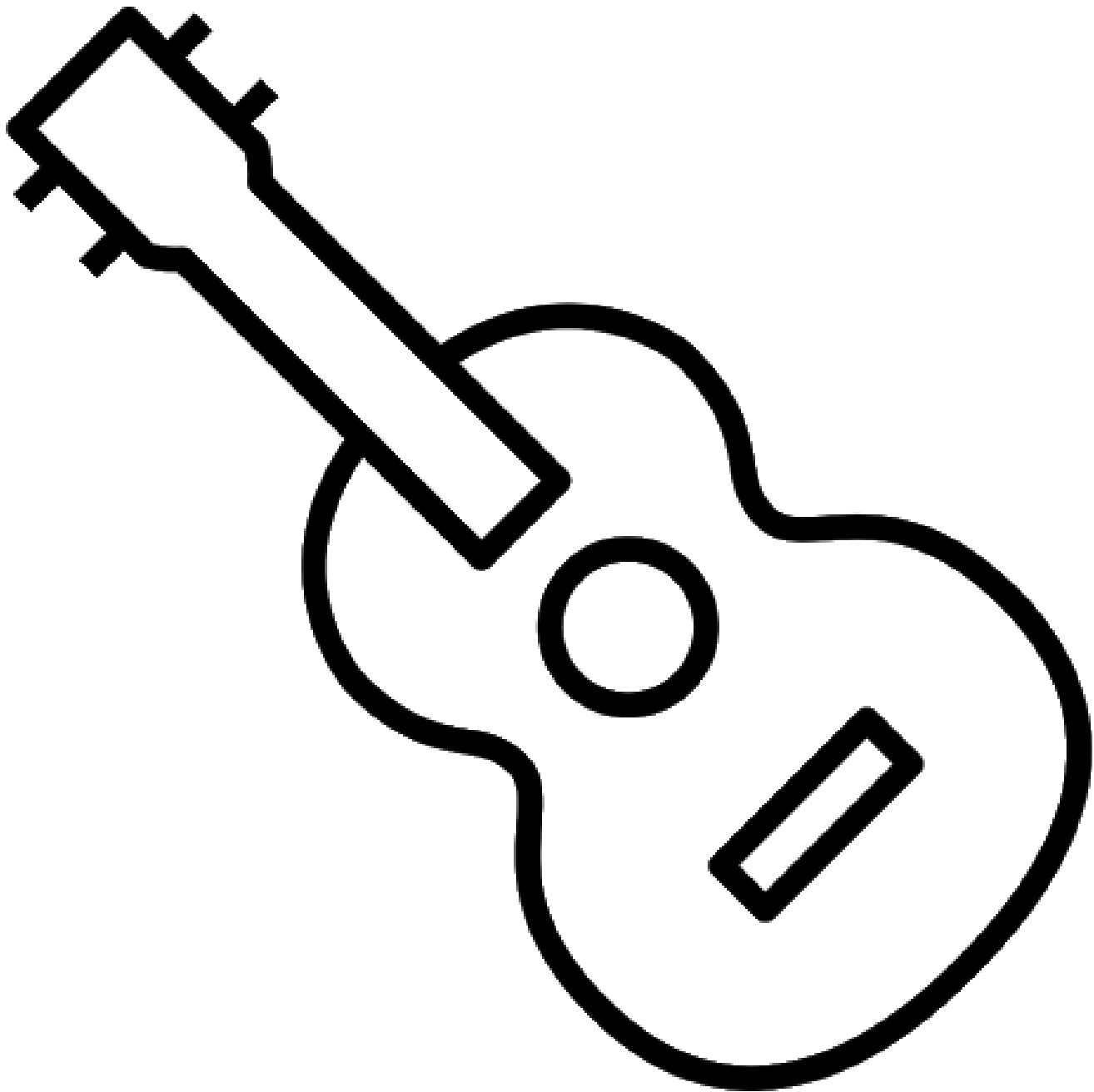
tambor



# Handwriting practice

Directions: Color the guitar and trace the word.

Instrucciones: Colorea la guitarra y traza la palabra.

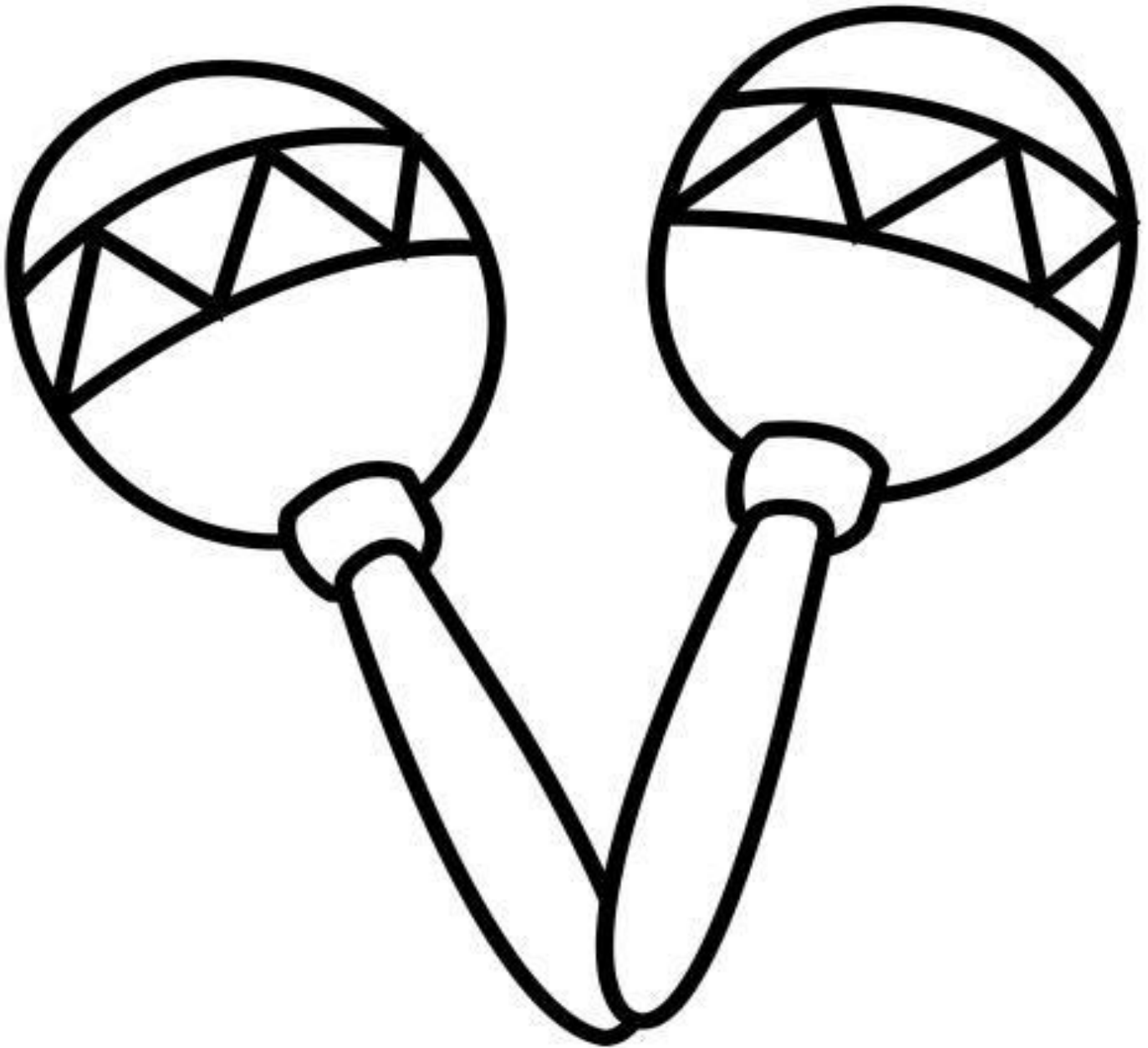


guitarra

# Handwriting practice

Directions: Color the maracas and trace the word.

Instrucciones: Colorea las maracas y traza la palabra.



maracas

## Musical instruments Measurement

Directions: color the blocks to measure the height of each instrument.

Instrucciones: Colorea las maracas y traza la palabra.

