

This activity contributes to the following badges:



Beaver International Activity Badge



Cub International Activity Badge



Scout International Activity Badge

Beavers | Cubs | Scouts

# Make a pan flute

**Inti Raymi, 22 June** Make your own pan flute and learn about the Inca Sun God and an ancient festival that's still celebrated in South America

**Time: 30 minutes**

**Equipment** (per person)

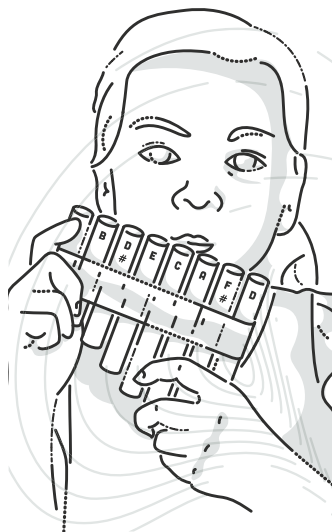
- Paper straws x 8 (or 8 pieces of wide/jumbo bamboo)
- Ruler
- Pen/pencil
- Scissors
- Card
- Glue
- Stickers (optional)

**Instructions**

**1** Encourage the young people to explore beliefs and backgrounds different from their own by having a discussion about Inti Raymi, a traditional ceremony of the Inca Empire, which covered a lot of South America in the 1400s and 1500s. 'Raymi' means festival, and 'Inti' is the Inca Sun God. The Incas worshipped the Sun. Lots of indigenous cultures throughout the Andes (the mountains across the western edge of South America) still celebrate Inti Raymi today.

**2** Give each person eight straws. Everyone should use a ruler and the note measurements to measure the straws, then mark with pencil and carefully cut them to size. Remember when cutting to use supervision appropriate to the age of the section.

**3** Ask them to draw two rectangles on card – roughly 13cm x 3cm, to fit over the straws. Then use the scissors to carefully cut them out.



**4** Ask the young people to put glue onto one rectangle.

**5** Leaving about 2cm (or enough space to hold), everyone should then place their longest straw onto the sticky card. They should leave some straw poking out of the top, so they can blow across it.

**6** Leaving a small gap, everyone should then place their second longest straw onto their sticky card. The top of the second straw should be in line with the top of the first straw, so they can blow across them both easily.

**7** One by one, everyone should add the straws in length order. They should always leave a small gap between them, and the tops of the straws should always line up. When the straws are all in

position, there should be about 2cm of card left at the end (again, enough to hold).

**8** Everyone should put glue on their other card rectangle, then stick their second rectangle on top of the line of straws, pinching it at each end to make two handles.

**9** Now the pan flutes are made, everyone can be creative, using pens and stickers to decorate their flutes. Remember that they're going to be used to honour the Inca Sun God.

**10** Everyone should practise blowing across the top of their pan flute. Can they make a tune? Can they get into small groups and make a tune together? What happens if everyone plays their pan flutes at once?

**Note measurements:**

Do (C) = 17.5cm  
 Re (D) = 15.5cm  
 Mi (E) = 13.5cm  
 Fa (F) = 12.5cm  
 So (G) = 11cm  
 La (A) = 10cm  
 Ti (B) = 9cm  
 Do (C: octave above) = 8.5cm

**Take it further:**

Create a smaller pan flute by using fewer straws. To make the activity more accessible, young people can make the flutes in pairs, so that they have an extra pair of hands.

Peer Leadership/  
 Young Leaders  
 can help to  
 prep materials,  
 measure/mark  
 and space the  
 straws out.