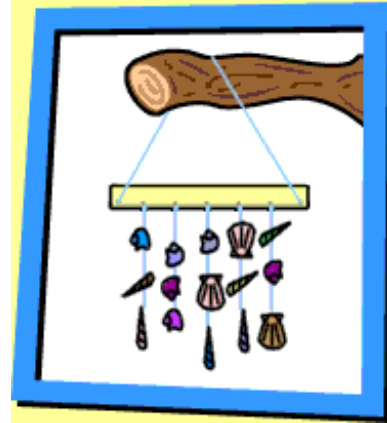




Outdoor Mobile (Wind Chime)

Mobiles can be moving sculptures that can be hung outside. These can be very interesting: they can include different materials and objects, and can be designed to work in slightly different ways - for example by making noises. These kinds of mobiles are called wind chimes.

Use your knowledge of how to make an indoor mobile to make an outdoor wind chime using seashells.



Equipment

1. About 12 - 15 seashells, each with different shapes and sizes.
2. Some strong string.
3. A pair of scissors.

Safety Stuff

Check with an adult before you begin making any of these mobiles, as you may need their help. If you're going to make the outdoor mobile, you'll probably need an adult's help to hang it up.

Working with items such as scissors can be dangerous, so be very careful when you use them, and make sure that you never leave them open or lying around where smaller children can reach them. Before starting to make your mobile, cover the work surface with some newspaper or an old cloth, and make sure you're wearing an apron or some old clothes. Gather together all the items you'll need before you begin. Most things will be found by simply hunting around the house or garden, but remember to check with an adult before you take anything.

When you've made your mobile, ask an adult to help you hang it up. If you're hanging your mobile from a lampshade, make sure that it's well away from the actual bulb, so that it doesn't cause a fire hazard (light bulbs can easily get hot enough to burn plastic, wood or paper!).

If you've made the outdoor mobile, remember to select a sturdy branch or other fixed location to hang it from. And make sure that you hang it where nobody's going to be walking, so they don't hit their heads.

Steps

Step One

Seashells will make a nice sound when they bump together.

To start, design and make the frame that the shells will hang from. Do this in the same way as for the indoor mobile, but instead of using straws to make the frame, use a material that is stronger and will support the weight of the shells.

Step Two

Next, the shells will need to be attached to the frame. You can use a length of string, or strong thread, to do this.

Can you think of a way to attach each of the shells to the string, or thread? Then you will need to attach each piece of thread to the frame.

Make sure that the shells are placed on the thread so that they knock against each other when the wind blows.



Step Three

Your seashell mobile is now complete and you need to find somewhere to hang it.

Select a strong branch or somewhere on your porch, for example, making sure you hang it away from where people walk, so they won't bang their heads. Then sit back and wait for the wind to blow!

How does your seashell wind chime sound? Try experimenting with other materials which make nice sounds when bumped together, for example sticks or other strips of wood, metal pipes or terracotta pots. Can you think of other objects that you could use to make a wind chime? How would the sounds made by those objects be different, and which do you think you would prefer?