

Materials:

- 1 Plastic Drinking Cup (Solo cups work well but any plastic cup can be used.)
- 2 Feet of Yarn or Cotton String
- 1 Small Piece of Sponge [2"X1"] or 1 Damp Paper Towel
- 1 Small Nail or Thumbtack
- 1 Piece of Craft Foam (Choose your favorite color.)
- 1-3 Feathers
- Scotch Tape
- Two Googly Eyes
- Scissors
- Water



Directions:

First, set up the string.

- Ask an adult to punch a small hole in the center of the bottom of the cup using a nail or thumbtack.
- Tie a paper clip to one end of the string (or yarn).
- Push the string (or yarn) through the hole in the cup until the paper clip stops you.
- Note: No paperclip? No problem! Just tie a big knot at that end instead.
- Note: Having trouble threading the string (or yarn) through the hole? Also no problem! Wrap the end of the string with Scotch tape so it becomes stiffer, like the end of a shoelace.

Next, it's design time.

- Using Scotch tape, craft foam, googly eyes, and feathers decorate the cup. This is your craft and you get to choose what it looks like... A Chicken? A Duck? A Goose? or even A Churkendoose!

Finally, put it all together!

- Use the water to dampen your sponge (or paper towel).
- Hold the cup in one hand and let the string hang loose from the bottom.
- Fold the damp sponge in half and, near the lip of the cup, put the string between the fold.
- The sponge should surround a small part of the string. Most of the string should be hanging down.
- Holding the cup tight with one hand and the sponge tight enough to keep the string between its folds, pull the sponge down in short jerks.
- You should hear a sound that is just like a chicken clucking! When you are ready to store your creation you can tie your sponge to one end of the string so it does not get lost. ENJOY!

Science Fun Fact: Why Your Chicken Cup Clucks

You've created a sound board! The damp sponge creates friction on the string. This makes the string vibrate. The cup amplifies these vibrations. This means that the cup spreads out the vibrations and makes them louder. Without the cup the same action would be almost silent.

Experiment! Use yarn instead of string. Try a thicker string. Use a dry sponge instead of a damp sponge.

Do the sounds change? Why do you think that is?

Storyologist Idea: The Very Quiet Chicken

Write a story about a chicken that can't cluck! Does it make other sounds instead?