

Materials:

- 2 Large or Small Paint Stirrers (These can often be found for free at hardware and paint stores.)
- Acrylic Paint
- Markers
- Paint Brushes
- Cotton Swabs



Directions:

First, get the sticks ready:

- Paint both sides of both sticks.
- Put the sticks aside until dry.

Next, decorate the sticks:

- Using markers, create designs on the sticks.
- Animal designs are often used but you can choose other images.
- Let your imagination guide you!

Finally, create your design!

- “Hide” your design with dots made with swabs dipped in paint or dots made with markers.
- Do your dots mean something secret?
- Allow the paint to dry. Have a fun clapping your sticks together to create your own beat.

Fun Fact: The History of Clap Sticks

These percussion instruments are inspired by Australian clap sticks, also called *bilma*. These clap sticks were created by Aboriginal tribes to use during their ceremonial dances. The Aboriginal people of Australia painted symbols and patterns to tell a story or record rituals on these sticks. This technique was often used so others could not understand their messages and thus the meanings could remain secret.

