

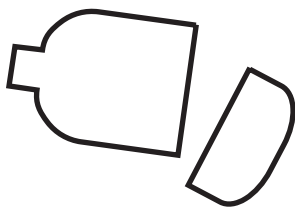
Whirligig

Vollis Simpson, of Wilson County, made whirligigs small—and HUGE—from odds and ends that he collected and repurposed. Why not recycle a plastic bottle into a simple whirligig of your own!

Supplies: small, thin-sided plastic bottle and cap, scissors (and craft knife), permanent markers, string, thumbtack, ballpoint pen, small button, small bead

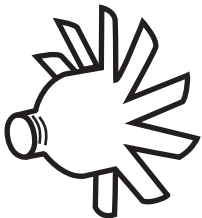
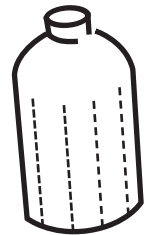


Vollis Simpson whirligig, from the museum collection



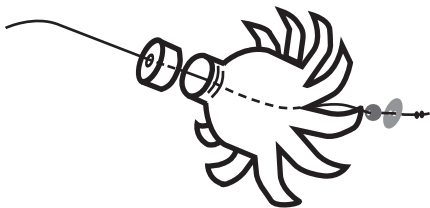
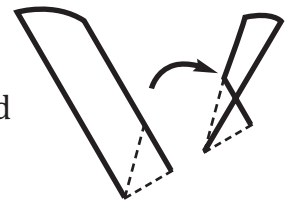
1. Cut the bottom off your bottle with scissors. If you need help starting the cut, ask a grownup to make a slit with a craft knife.

2. If you'd like, color or make some designs on the bottle's sides with markers. Then, draw evenly-spaced lines from the cut edge to almost where the bottle curves toward its top. Cut along those lines to create whirligig "blades."



3. Fold the blades up and crease them until they stick straight out!

4. Give each blade an extra fold, at an angle, so they'll catch the wind when you're done.



5. CAREFULLY punch a hole in the bottle cap with a thumbtack. If needed, enlarge the hole with the tip of a ballpoint pen. Then, thread about 20 inches of string through the hole, through one eye of a small button, and through a bead on the end. Tie a knot in the string so it won't slip back through the cap.

6. Screw the cap on your bottle-whirligig. Then, run around, or hold your creation in front of a fan—and watch it twirl!

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