**Sistrum (E14058):** Between the arch and handle of this richly decorated copper-alloy sistrum is the face of Hathor, above which is the cat-headed goddess Bastet standing at the front of a shrine; two sphinxes guard its entry. At the base of the handle is the god Bes flanked by two sphinxes. A cat and her kittens, symbols of the goddess Bastet, recline on top of the arch.

Late Period–Roman Period (7th–1st centuries BC), Egypt. On display in The Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery at the OI.
MAKE AN ANCIENT INSTRUMENT

Mesopotamian Animal Rattles

Archaeologists have discovered ancient clay rattles from Mesopotamia, like this pig-shaped rattle from Shu-sin Temple at Tell Asmar. Rattles may have been used to make music for religious ceremonies or for entertainment. Rattles were made to look like different things, including animals—like pigs and sheep—and drums.

How to Make an Animal Rattle

You will need:
- Toilet paper tube or 4–5” piece of paper towel tube
- Small handful of beans, popcorn kernels, or beads
- Cardboard, cardstock, or paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons for decorating

Steps:

1. Press the ends of the paper tube on both ends, as shown below.

2. Open up one end of the tube and pour in your beans, popcorn kernels, or beads, then close it back up tightly.

3. Draw an animal face for your rattle on a piece of cardboard, cardstock, or paper. You can try the steps here to draw a sheep or pig, or you can draw your own animal. Cut out the head.

4. Decorate the paper tube and animal face however you like. Tape the head in place as shown here.

5. Give it a shake—your rattle is complete!
Ancient Egyptian Clap Sticks and Rattles

Ancient Egyptians made music using many instruments, such as harps, flutes, and percussion instruments like clap sticks and rattles. Some clap sticks were made in the shapes of hands and used for religious purposes, like this ivory clapper from the Second Intermediate Period (around 1800–1570 BC). Rattles came in different shapes and materials, like this wooden rattle from the Ptolemaic Period (305–30 BC), and could have been used for entertainment as well as religious purposes.

How to Make an Ancient Egyptian Style Clapper

You will need:
- Rectangular piece of cardboard, around 6” x 10”
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons for decorating

Steps:

1. Use a ruler to draw a straight line lengthways down the middle of your piece of cardboard. Cut along the line so you have two long strips of cardboard.

2. Sketch a hand on the top half of one piece of cardboard, as shown to the left. It doesn’t have to be perfect or look real!

3. Cut out the hand, and then use the cut-out hand to trace a hand shape onto the second piece of cardboard. Cut out the second hand.

4. Bend one piece of cardboard just below the hand. Leave the other hand unbent.

5. Decorate your clappers on both sides. Hold the clappers together so that the overlap about halfway, like shown. Give them a shake! Experiment with holding them in different ways, or holding the clappers in two different hands to see what makes the best sound.