



Try This **EXPERIMENT** @  
Home!

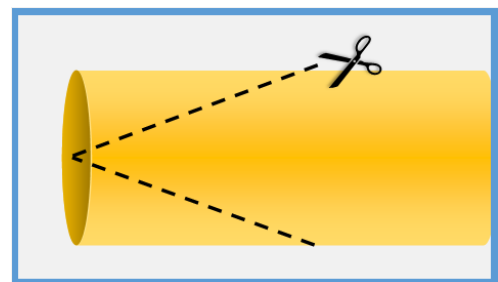
## Make a **THUNDERSTRAW!**

Use science to turn a simple drinking straw into a wacky musical **THUNDERSTRAW!**



### **To make your THUNDERSTRAW:**

1. Flatten the last 3-4 cm of your straw, using your thumb and finger to squeeze it flat.
2. Cut a V shape at the tip of the flat section of straw using scissors
3. That's it! Your THUNDERSTRAW is ready to play!



### **To play your THUNDERSTRAW:**

Seal your lips around the straw about 1cm past the V-cut. Then just blow through the straw, increasing your speed, until you hear a buzzing sound.



**Q. How is this small straw making such a loud and wacky sound?**

**A.** Sound is simply a vibration which travels through the stuff (air, water, etc.) around us. It is sensed in our ears and signalled to the brain. Air rushing over the V-cut makes the plastic of the straw vibrate, or resonate, at a frequency which we can hear. Sounds cool hey! Can you feel the vibrations tickling your lips and mouth?!?

*Advanced scientists: try changing the pitch by shortening the THUNDERSTRAW with scissors while blowing!*

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