

Cardboard Cannon

What will I need?

For the Cannon:

- A toilet roll or kitchen roll tube
- Large elastic band
- String
- Sellotape
- Scissors

For the Castle tower skittles:

- A toilet roll or kitchen roll tube (or tubes made out of paper)
- Pen/pencil

For the cannon ball:

- Something you can scrunch into a small ball e.g. kitchen roll or newspaper

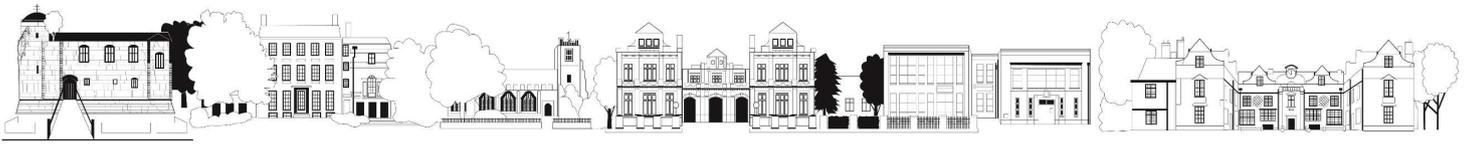
What do I do?

1. Choose a tube to be your cannon and carefully make two 1cm cuts in one end. Turn your tube over and make another two 1cm cuts (the same end but opposite side). These are the slots to hold your elastic band.



2. Push the elastic band into one set of slits. This bit is a little fiddly, so take your time to prevent damaging your card tube.





3. Twist your elastic band once to form a figure-of-eight. This bit is very important.

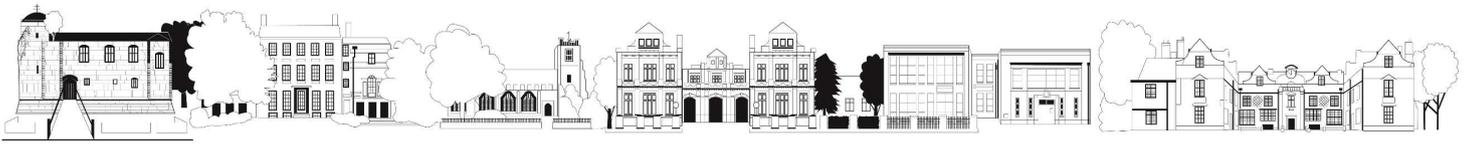


4. Take the figure-of-eight end not attached to the tube and tuck it into the other set of slits. You can pop some Sellotape over the bits of elastic band on the outside of the tube to keep them in place if you like.



5. Tie a piece of string around the elastic band, where it crosses. You will need this to 'fire' the cannon. Once it is secure, poke the string through the tube so it sticks out of the opposite end from where the elastic band is attached. Your cannon is now complete.





6. Now we move onto the Castle tower skittles. You can design your towers however you like. We chose to give ours battlements. The easiest way to do this is to make 8 cuts of 1cm, evenly spaced around one end of the tube. You then push in every other section to create the battlements.

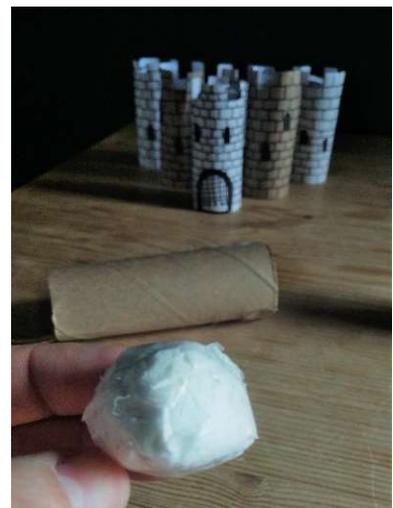


7. Now you can add extra detail to your skittles. Just using a black pen, we drew on a brick pattern and arrow slits. On one, we drew a doorway with a portcullis.

You can make as many skittles as you like, it just depends how many tubes you have!



8. To make a cannon ball, simply scrunch up a sheet of kitchen roll, newspaper or tissue paper into a tight ball. We wrapped a little tape around ours to help it keep its shape. Make sure your ball fits easily into the cannon. If it's too big it will catch on the sides and won't fire properly.





9. Now you're ready to play. Line up the towers and load your ball into the end of the cannon where the elastic band is attached. Grab the string and pull it back to create tension in the elastic band, aim at your skittles then release the string to fire!



Please do not use your new cannon to fire things at people, as this could cause injuries!

10. We'd love to see your cannons in action, so be sure to take photos and share them tagging Colchester or Ipswich Museums on social media.

*Why not...
make a game of it? Note down how
many skittles you knock over, set them
back up, then hand the cannon over to
player 2!*