Make a tippy tap

Turn over to learn how to make your own tippy tap!
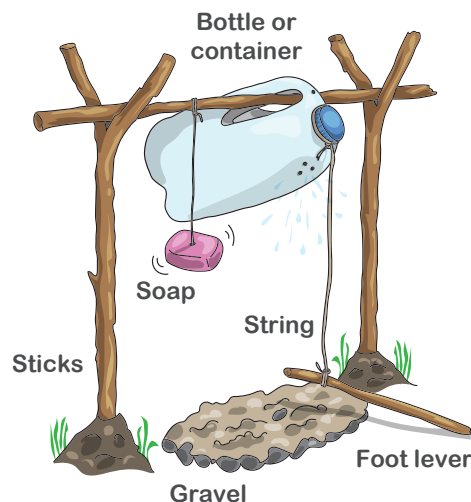
Many countries around the world don't have access to water like us. So families build tippy taps, which is a simple way for people to wash their hands when no taps are available.

Making a tippy tap is easy and fun. With the foot lever, the bottle or container tips forward and the water trickles through the holes.

Bottle or container

Soap

String

Sticks

Foot lever

Gravel

To make a tippy tap, you will need...

MATERIALS

Milk/water bottle

Soap

Rope/string

2 forked sticks

2 straight sticks

Gravels or bucket (optional)

TOOLS

Shovel

Pliers + nail

Candle + lighter

Scissors

For 8+ yr olds 30-45 min

Can you answer these?

How many taps do you have at home?

What would happen if you couldn't wash your hands?

How long do you need to wash your hands for to kill all the germs?

When do you need to wash your hands?

After going to the toilet, this boy from Zimbabwe washes his hand to avoid diseases.
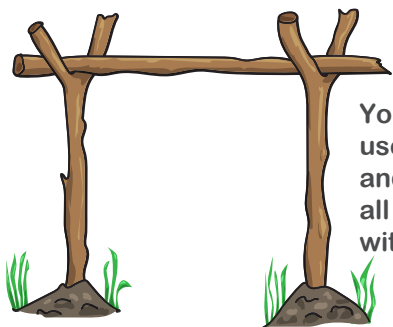
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Make a tippy tap

Method

This is how to build a typical tippy tap but feel free to try with other materials. Ask an adult to help you with making the holes.

1 Build the tippy tap structure by digging 2 holes to plant the forked sticks into.

You can also use tubes and attach all the parts with ropes.

Make sure the sticks are levels and once they are firmly secured in the ground, place one of the straight stick across the forks.
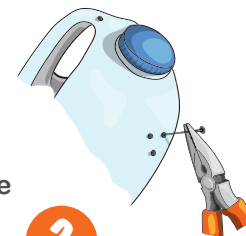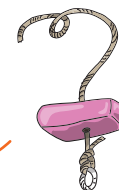
2 Using the pliers, heat the nail with the candle to easily pierce the bottle.

With the hot nail, make 3 holes near the top of the bottle on the opposite side of the handle and 1 hole above the handle to let air get in.
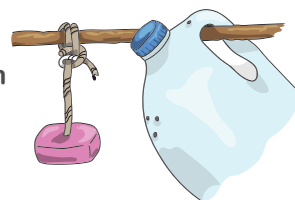
3

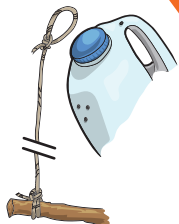**4** Make a hole through the soap using the nail and thread the string through.

5 Hang the bottle on the stick by the handle or with some string. Hang the soap at a similar height.

Fill the bottle with clean water.

6 Build the lever by attaching one side of the string to the neck of the bottle and the other side to the stick.

Make sure the stick is off the ground.

7 Your tippy tap is ready. Well done!

You can put some gravel (or a bucket) under the tippy tap to avoid the water running off.