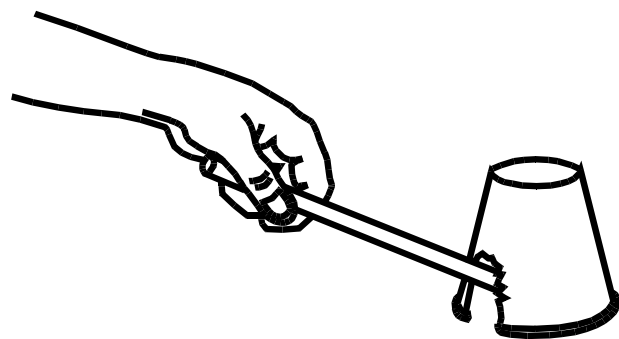
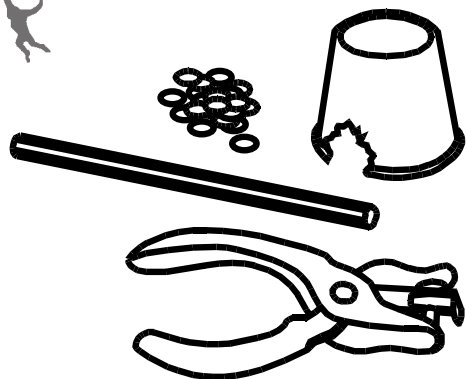


# Tools for Tasks



Chimpanzees making and using tools was first observed at Gombe Reserve. You can simulate this tool use with some simple everyday objects: a plastic straw or a plastic ballpoint pen, a plastic or paper cup, a paper punch and some plain paper.

## Instructions

Punch out a pile of paper dots.

Cut out a small hole in the bottom of a paper or plastic cup. Place the cup upside down over the pile of paper dots.

Take a plastic straw or a ballpoint pen and rub it briskly for 5-10 seconds in your hair or on a wool sweater.

Insert the straw or pen through the hole and pull it out. What happens?

You have modeled how chimpanzees at Gombe use a tool to extract termites from inside their nests. Chimpanzees pick a suitable stick, strip off the side twigs and poke the stick through the opening of a termite mound. The guardian, or soldier termites that defend the nest, attack the stick and cling to it with their jaws. The chimpanzee then slurps the termites from the stick and inserts it again for more food.

Young chimpanzees have learned how to do this by watching their mothers. Sometimes a chimpanzee will discard

the stick he is using and make a new tool from another branch for no apparent reason. Why do you think they do this?

## Try This, Too!

How was this model like the real thing?  
How was it different?

Here are some other examples of chimpanzees making and using tools for different purposes.

### *Nest making*

### *Sponging with leaves*

### *Investigation probes with sticks* *playing with objects*

Take a look at them online by going to [www.discoverchimpanzees.org/elearn](http://www.discoverchimpanzees.org/elearn)

## Related Activities

*Sharing and Monopolizing Food*