



Act like an Aye-Aye

What you need

- Paper (to wrap around fingers; you can use empty paper towel tubes)
- Long tube (empty paper towel tube, two toilet paper tubes taped together, PVC tube)
- Balloons, plastic wrap, foil (anything that you can use to cover the end of paper tubes)
- Scissors and tape
- Small object(s) that will fit inside tubes

Preparation

Follow the instructions below to make digits for your middle and ring fingers, and 'branches'.

1. Wrap a piece of paper around your middle finger to form a tube (about 2 to 2 ½ times the length of your finger), use tape to hold it together. It should be snug but not tight. Twist the tips and use tape to make them rigid.
2. Make one for your ring finger.
3. Fill one end of a long tube (half way) with lightweight material such as newspaper, packing peanuts, bubble wrap, and cover the end with a balloon, plastic wrap or foil. Place a small object into the other end and cover as before.



What to do

1. Wear the long digits on your middle and ring fingers.
2. Use your long fingers to tap on the tube and listen for the hollow section like an aye-aye searches for insect larvae. Aye-ayes mostly use their middle finger to tap and remove larvae they find inside, and use their ring fingers to tap on other food sources such as fruit.
3. Remove the cover to see if you were successful. Try different materials and objects to see how it affects the sound.

What is happening?

Aye-ayes (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) use percussive foraging; they tap on wood and use sound, and possibly other senses, to detect cavities and then gnaw holes to get inside.