

MAKE A MATATU

Materials Needed:

- Small cardboard box—eg, an empty box that teabags came in
- 4 soda bottle lids of the same size
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Paint and brushes

Instructions:

1. Prior to craft time, use a hammer and nail to punch a hole in the center of each lid.
2. Have the children paint the box to resemble a taxi—windows, doors, decorations on the sides, etc.
3. While the paint is drying, use the scissors to cut a pipe cleaner in half.
4. Thread the pipe cleaner through one of the lids, twisting the end to keep it from coming off. Do the same on the other end. This will be one set of wheels.
5. Repeat Step 4 for the second set of wheels.
6. Cut another pipe cleaner into inch-long pieces.
7. Flip the box over, and lay the wheel sets across the bottom.
8. Use the inch-long strips to hold the wheel sets in place, gluing or taping them to the box. (This will allow the wheels to turn.)





MATATU RACE

Matatus are Kenyan taxis, and they go everywhere very fast. Have a race with the kids today—you'll need some open space. Matatus are also very crowded—have the children sit together in groups on a skateboard or in a rolling chair, or something else with wheels. They'll have to push along with their legs and work together to pick up speed. If the kids are older, try having the race in a tighter space where they'll have to bump and jostle into other 'vehicles'. This makes it more like driving on the streets of Nairobi.