

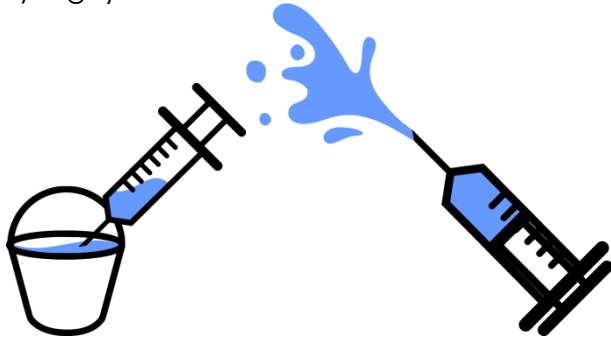
# Make your own 1600s fire squirt!

This activity requires 2 toilet roll tubes, a lolly pop stick, small piece of paper, scissors, tape or glue and your imagination.

Before fire engines became what we know them to be today (big vehicles full of special equipment, massive tanks of water and miles of hoses) firefighting equipment used to be really simple. In the year 1666 when a fire spread across London the only firefighting equipment available was buckets, large hooks for pulling down buildings, ladders and squirts. Fire pumps did exist but were few and far between. Did you know the first fire pumps or fire engines as we would call them today date back to the 1500s!

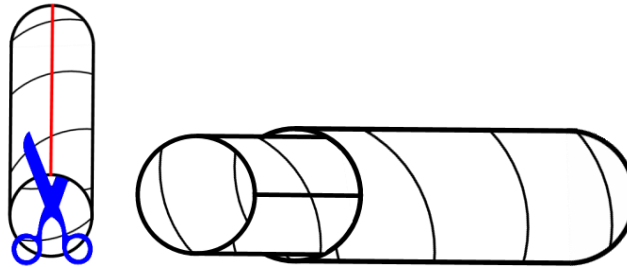
## Example:

A squirt works like a water pistol. It sucks water in through the top and pushes it back out when the inner tube is pushed inside (like a syringe).



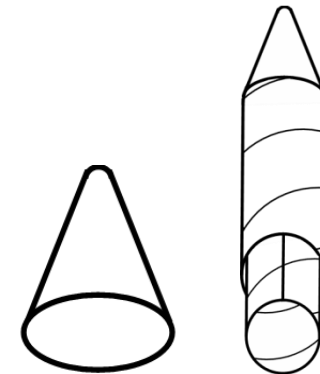
## Step 1:

Get 2 toilet roll cardboard tubes and make a cut down the middle of one tube. This will allow this tube to fit inside another. Use tape or glue to stick the tube back together. Make sure it is a snug fit.



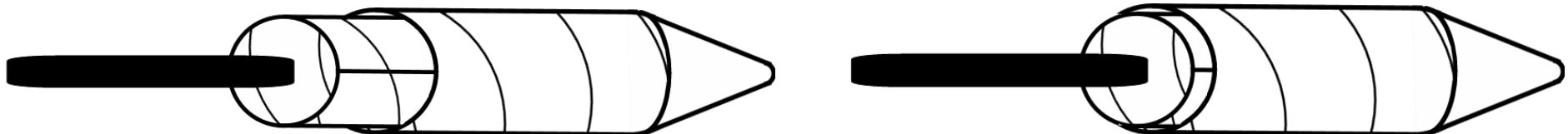
## Step 2:

Using a piece of paper, cut and role the paper into a funnel shape and attach to the top of the squirt. This will give the water direction and the user better aim onto the fire.



## Step 3:

Attached a lollypop stick with tape or glue to the inner tube, giving you a handle to operate the squirt. This should allow the inner tube to slide in and out of the outer tube. Remember that this is an example of a 400 year old squirt and will not actually work or put out a fire.



Original squirts would have been made from wood carved by hand and then later made from bass with leather inserts to help seal the inner tube to squirt water. Some squirts would have been that large they would have required multiple people to operate them. It was still faster to use buckets to throw water onto a fire but a squirt could reach the upper floors of a building unlike a bucket.

