

3 Make a blow dart game

Put your ninja skills to the test with some target practice.

What you need

- Cotton buds
- Glue
- Feathers (optional)
- Target template
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Talcum powder
- Thick straw

How does it work?

Japanese ninjas were professional spies who passed their skills from generation to generation. Dating back to the 12th century, they got their name from the word “nin” – which came to mean “move stealthily” – and “ja” – a form of “sha”, meaning “person”. Ninjas silently attacked their enemies used darts dipped in poison and shot from hollow tubes. The blowpipes also had another function – they helped ninjas breathe underwater.



1 Glue two feathers to one end of a cotton bud. This makes it look like a real blow dart, and you can experiment with how it affects the dart's flight.



2 Print and cut out your bullseye at tinyurl.com/SN-BlowDartTarget and stick it to a tree or the back of a chair.



3 Dip the other end of your cotton bud into some talcum powder. Push it feather-first into the straw, then take aim at the target and blow hard.