



A postcard depicts Halloween mischief. Image courtesy of The New York Public Library Digital Collections

Newspapers in the early 20th century reported incidents of homeowners firing buckshot at pranksters who were only 11 or 12 years old. "Letting the air out of tires isn't fun anymore," wrote the Superintendent of Schools of Rochester, New York in a newspaper editorial in 1942, as U.S. participation in World War II was escalating. "It's sabotage. Soaping windows isn't fun this year. Your government needs soaps and greases for the war ... Even ringing doorbells has lost its appeal because it may mean disturbing the sleep of a tired war worker who needs his rest."—Smithsonian Magazine



Teens used to terrorize smaller children on Halloween. Image courtesy of The New York Public Library

SLINGSHOT CRAFT

Materials

- 2 wooden dowels
- 1 roll of tape
- 1 rubber band
- 3 pompoms



Though the slingshot's history dates back to ancient times, it was often used for modern day mischiefousness including Halloween night pranks.

Directions

1. Criss cross your dowels at the bottom making an X shape and secure with tape.
2. Attach one end of the rubber band to the top of the dowel using the tape, then stretch the other end of the rubber band across the open top to the other dowel and attach with tape.
3. Place a pompom in the middle of the rubber band, pull back, aim, and let go to launch!

Your homemade slingshot is ready for fun!