

Stained Glass Windows

This convincing technique makes use of thickened tempera paint to evoke stained glass. After transforming your windows, the material cleans up with little more than soapy water.

Materials

- Cornstarch
- Tempera paint in several colors, including black
- Liquid dish detergent
- Mixing bowls and stirrers
- Funnel
- Plastic squeeze bottle
- Old sheet or drop cloth
- Newspaper and painter's tape (optional)
- Paintbrushes
- Plastic spatula

Instructions

1. For each color of paint, combine 1/4 cup cornstarch, 1/4 cup paint, and 1 teaspoon of dish detergent in a bowl and stir until the mixture is the consistency of yogurt.
2. Use the funnel to pour the black paint into the squeeze bottle.
3. Cover the floor beneath a clean glass door or window with the sheet or drop cloth. To avoid potential stains, cover any exposed wood with newspaper and painter's tape.
4. Use the paintbrushes to paint a picture on the window.
5. Once the paint is dry, use the squeeze bottle to carefully outline the shapes with black paint, creating a stained glass effect. Add more black lines as desired.
6. When you're ready to remove the artwork, use a plastic spatula to scrape off the paint, then wash away any remaining streaks with warm soapy water.

Finger Cymbals

Materials

- 2 juice can lids (from frozen concentrate cans)
- 10" of ½" wide elastic
- Scissors
- Instant grab glue
- Stickers

Instructions:

1. Decorate lids with stickers.
2. Wrap elastic around child's middle or forefinger to get a measurement. You want the finger to fit inside comfortably without being too loose. Do the same for the child's thumb.
3. Secure those two pieces of elastic with instant grab glue and let dry.
4. Test the juice can lids by clapping them together. Choose which side you like best to determine which side to attach the elastic finger rings to. Use instant grab glue to secure the finger rings to the juice can lids. Let the glue dry for about 2 hours to ensure that the rings will not come off.

Coffee Filter Butterfly

These beautifully vibrant butterflies are a great way to welcome spring! Suspend them from the ceiling with fishing line, or make several and attach to a paper plate mobile.

Materials

- ½ black chenille stem
- Paper coffee filter
- Water color paints
- Paint brush
- Water

Instructions

1. Flatten the coffee filter and place it on a plate or newspaper, the paint and water will soak through. Set aside on paper towels to dry.
2. Fold the chenille stem in half. Remember, you are only using half of a chenille stem to begin with.
3. Fold the coffee filter accordion style, in about ½" pleats.
4. Position the pleated coffee filter into the bent end of the chenille stem. Center the filter at the bend.
5. Twist the chenille stem around the filter to secure it in place.
6. Bend the tips of the chenille stems over about ¼" to create the antennae.
7. Fan out the butterfly wings.
8. If desired, hang with yarn or fishing line.

Paper Plate Panda

Isn't this perfect little paper plate panda just the cutest? Kids can make their own loveable black and white bear with some construction paper, paper plates, and crayons!

Materials

- 2- 9" paper plate
- Black construction paper
- 2 large wiggle eyes
- Black crayon or marker
- White craft glue
- Glue stick
- White paint
- Red construction paper
- Scissors
- Pattern

Instructions

1. Using the pattern, cut two eyes, nose, two arms, two ears, and two feet from the black construction paper. Cut bow tie from red construction paper.
2. Cut off about a ½" from the outer rim of one of the paper plates to make the panda head. Glue the nose to the center of the plate and the two eyes above it. Glue ears to the back of the plate.
3. Glue wiggle eyes to the centers of the black paper eyes. Then draw on a mouth and eyebrows with a black crayon or marker.
4. Turn the other paper plate upside down. Glue both arms in place, shoulder to the back of the plate and paw to the front. Glue red bow tie to the center of the plate, about 2" below the outer edge.
5. Dip child's finger tip in white paint and dot toes onto feet. Let dry then glue feet to the bottom of the paper plate body.
6. Glue the head to the body.

Coffee Can Drum

Kids love music and banging on pots, pans, and plastic containers. Combine their creativity with their musical talent by making this adorable homemade drum.

Materials

- Aluminum coffee can with plastic lid
- 2 sheets yellow construction paper
- 1 sheet tan felt
- ½ sheet magenta felt
- Magenta yarn
- 1 rubber band
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- White craft glue
- 2 wooden dowels
- 2 small foam balls
- Blue yarn

Instructions

1. Remove lid from coffee can and set aside for a later step.
2. Cover the side of the can with yellow construction paper. Use glue stick to apply glue all over construction paper then press on to the coffee can.
3. Using the white craft glue, “draw” diagonal lines onto the yellow construction paper. Start at the bottom, go up at a slant to the top, and then go down from there at a slant, creating a triangle. Continue this pattern all the way around the can.
4. Using magenta colored yarn, follow the glue lines and apply to the can. Do not cut the yarn into pieces; simply follow the lines, gently pressing the yarn into the glue as you go. Cut only once at the end.
5. Lay tan felt on the work surface.
6. Pipe white glue around and on the top of the plastic lid.
7. Place the plastic lid upside down in the center of the tan felt.
8. Use scissors to trim around the plastic lid, leaving a 1-2” border.
9. Place the felt-covered plastic lid onto the coffee can and secure.
10. Wrap the rubber band around the coffee can, securing the tan felt border to the side of the can. Gently pull the felt tight so that the top is smooth.
11. Cut two ½-inch wide strips from the magenta felt, enough to go around the coffee can at the bottom as well as at the top, around the tan felt, covering the rubber band. Glue in place with white craft glue.
12. To make the drumsticks, gently insert the end of a dowel into the foam ball. If you press too hard and the dowel goes through, just glue it back together.
13. Remove the dowel, and then add some white glue to the hole. Reinsert the dowel.
14. Cover the foam ball with white glue and wrap blue yarn around it until the ball is completely covered.

15. Put some glue on the dowel just below the ball and wrap some excess yarn around it.
Trim and smooth in place with your fingers, be sure the end of the yarn isn't sticking out.
16. Allow everything to dry before playing your new drum!

Paper Plate Tambourine

Children can shake this tambourine or tap it against their hips. As an easy variation, you can put a few dried beans between two plates and staple it together.

Materials

- Heavy-duty paper plate
- Hole punch
- Bells
- Elastic thread or string
- Markers, crayons, or paint

Instructions

1. Take a heavy-duty paper plate and punch several holes around the edge.
2. Tie on jingle bells (available in craft stores) with elastic thread or string.
3. Invite the kids to decorate the plate with paints, markers, or crayons.

Homemade Kazoo

Materials

- toilet paper or paper towel tubes
- crayons and/or markers of various colors
- 1 sheet wax paper cut to a 4"x4" square
- 1 rubber band
- pencil
- stickers (optional)

Instructions

1. Color and decorate your paper tube with markers, crayons, and/or stickers.
2. Secure the wax paper to one end of the tube using the rubber band.
3. Poke 4 to 6 small holes in the wax paper with the pencil.
4. Talk, sing, or hum into the uncovered opening; it should make a buzzing kazoo-like sound.

Tissue Cherry-Blossom Tree

Your crafty young gardeners will love this easy floral project.

Gather branches that have fallen outside; let dry, if necessary. Cut out 2-inch squares of pink tissue, pinch tightly in the middle to create blooms, and affix them to branches with white glue. Display in a tall container, such as a canning jar with the lid's center removed.

Paper Dragon

The dragon -- the only supernatural creature in the Asian zodiac -- epitomizes strength, endurance, virility, and brilliance. It's also the ultimate good-luck symbol. Create a small-scale version of the traditional Chinese paper dragon with decorative paper and chopsticks. These puppets are easy to make and even more fun to play with.

Materials

Dragon Template

Bristol board

Scissors

Construction or origami paper

Pinking shears or Fiskars "Wave" decorative edgers

Glue

Tissue paper

Sponge brush

Chopsticks

Hole punch

Brass paper fasteners

Instructions

1. Use our dragon template, or draw your own dragon with a head, two middle body sections, and a tail. If using template, enlarge it 200 percent. Trace template onto two sheets of Bristol board. The dragon will have a front and back. Cut out dragon pieces.
2. Cut a variety of strips of construction or origami paper. Cut one end with pinking shears or Fiskars "Wave" decorative edgers and the other side with scissors. The strips should be about 1 inch longer than the width of your dragon and about 2 inches wide.
3. To make the dragon's head, glue a solid piece of construction paper onto each piece of the head. Trim around the outline of the head. Glue some strips onto the neck area. Cut white paper for the eyes, teeth, and nostrils; black circles for the pupils; and a corresponding color for the eyelids. Glue to face.
4. To make the dragon's hair, cut pieces of colored construction paper using the small flame shape from the template as a guide. Glue these pieces in a flaming-hair pattern around the head.
5. To make the dragon's body and tail, glue the construction paper or origami strips onto the dragon sections starting at the end of the tail. Overlap the strips to make a fish-scale pattern. Continue to glue the strips on all of the sections. Trim the edges of the strips.

6. To make the dragon spikes on the body, glue triangle-shaped pieces of tissue paper to the inside of one piece of each section.

7. With a sponge brush, spread glue on the inside of all the dragon sections. Glue one-quarter of a chopstick to the inside of the dragon's head and tail; these will serve as puppet handles. Glue all the front and back sections together. Let dry, about 1 hour.

8. Using a hole punch, punch a hole at the ends of each connecting section. Connect the sections of the dragon with brass paper fasteners.

Button Bracelets

Materials:

Elastic

Buttons

Scissors

Process:

- Start by measuring your wrist with the elastic so that it stretches onto your wrist comfortably.
- Make sure you allow enough (extra) elastic for the knot.
- Thread your buttons onto the elastic through two of the button holes.
- Going through one hole will make the button sit sideways when it is on your wrist, where as two holes makes the button sit flat which is much more comfortable.

Yarn Octopus

Materials

- yarn
- scissors
- styrofoam ball or tennis ball
- tacky glue
- Large googly eyes

Process

1. PREPARE THE YARN: Cut two 10-inch pieces of yarn from the skein. Hold your hands about 3 feet apart and have your child wrap the rest of the skein around them to form one large ring of yarn. Knot one of the 10-inch yarn pieces around the middle of the ring. Place the tied ring on a tabletop and snip both loops (A).
2. FORM THE HEAD: Center the knot atop the ball and drape the yarn so that the ball is evenly covered (B). Knot the other 10-inch piece of yarn just below the ball.
3. BRAID THE TENTACLES: Divide the yarn strands into 8 equal bundles, then braid each one, securing the ends with yarn or ribbon (C). Glue on the googly eyes.

Pinecone Birdfeeder

Materials

- Pinecone
- butter knife or wood craft sticks
- Natural Smooth Peanut butter
- Birdseed
- Natural twine, hemp flax or cotton
- scissors

Process

- Cut a long length of the natural twine to hang the birdfeeder.
- Attach the twine to the pinecone by tying it around a few sections down from the top. Make a loop for hanging.
- Place the pinecone on a piece of paper towel or a paper plate. Using the butter knife or craft stick, spread the peanut butter inside and around the edges of the pinecone. Use plenty of peanut butter and make a big mess!
- Sprinkle the birdseed on the pinecone until all of the peanut butter is covered.
- Now it's time to hang your feeder outdoors and watch as the birds enjoy their treat.

Fourth of July Crafts

Materials

- colored construction paper or light weight cardstock
- crayons or paint
- scissors
- straight pins
- new unsharpened pencils w/ good erasers
- tape

Process

- For each pinwheel, cut an 8-inch square of paper or cardstock.
- Decorate the paper's front and back with colorful designs in crayon or paint. Elaborate drawings maybe cut or obscured during assembly, so encourage little ones to stick with big blocks or patterns of color, instead.
- Cut a 1½-inch square from the cardstock to make your washer.
- Decorate your washer (we decorated ours like a flag).
- Attach a tape loop to the back of the decorative washer and set aside.
- Once your 8 inch square is decorated, gently fold the square on each diagonal to mark seams for

cutting and to find the center of the square. Try not to make sharp creases; the folds are just a visual guide.

-Using your scissors (Mom), cut in on each fold line about three-quarters of the way from the corner toward the center. Leave the last inch or so of each fold—closest to the center—uncut.

-Keep your pin and pencil handy. Now, fold every other tip of the pinwheel toward the center, overlapping them. Pinch them between your fingers while you attach the decorative washer using the tape loop on the back.

-Push the pin through the washer, the center of the pinwheel and into the eraser on the back. Stop when the pin feels solid resistance—you've struck wood. Pushing too far will bend the pin.

Fire Cracker Hats

Material

- Pencil
- Yardstick
- Scissors
- poster board paper
- red, white and blue curling gift wrap ribbon
- masking tape and scotch tape
- glue stick
- yellow and orange crepe paper
- white silver pip cleaner
- pushpin

Process

-Cut a 7- by 24-inch rectangle from red poster board. Using the yardstick, draw a line across the long end of the rectangle, 2 inches beneath the top edge. Draw vertical lines at 2-inch intervals across the top edge, as shown below in 1. Cut along each vertical line to form tabs. Place the yardstick across the bottom of the tabs and bend the tabs over the stick.

-Cut 20 lengths of ribbon, each 20 inches long. On a table, lay a 12-inch piece of masking tape sticky-side up. Press 10 of the ribbons onto the tape, as shown in 2. Repeat with a second 12-inch piece of masking tape.

-With the ribbons hanging down, press the 2 ribbon/tape strips along the tabless edge of the red rectangle, leaving 5 inches between the strips for your child's forehead, as shown in 3. Roll the rectangle into a tube. Scotch-tape the edges to form a cylinder that will fit comfortably.

-Place the cylinder, with the tabs folded in, onto the remaining poster board. Trace around it and cut out the circle. Coat the outer 2 inches of the circle with glue. Press the tabs of the hat down onto the glue-coated portion of the circle and hold in place for a few seconds. Turn the hat right-side up to dry. If necessary, lay a magazine across the top to flatten the hat as it dries.

-Cut five strips of crepe paper, each 8 to 10 inches long. Stack the strips and wrap them with a pipe cleaner, as shown in 5. Pull tight and arrange the crepe paper to form a flower shape.

-With a pushpin, poke a hole in the center of the hat top. Thread the bottom 1 inches of the pipe cleaner through the hole. On the inside of the hat, bend the tip against the underside of the hat and masking-tape it in place.

Rocket Balloons

Make a bunch and invite kids to pair up and see who can complete the longest pass. Or form a circle and see how long the group can keep several rockets airborne by randomly tossing them back and forth.

Materials

- Balloon
- Ribbon
- Dried lentils

Instructions

To make each rocket, use a kitchen funnel to pour $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of dried lentils into a round balloon. Then blow up the balloon so it's about 16 inches around and knot it. For the finishing touch, tie several long ribbon streamers around the neck.

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