

## Finger Puppets

### Materials:

Felt scraps, Craft scissors, Craft glue, Permanent colored markers, Cotton balls, large blunt needle and thread (depending on the age of the kids), buttons, buttons, string.

For each puppet, first cut out a pair of 1 5/8- x 3-inch felt rectangles to serve as the front and back of the animal.

1. Either glue or sew the 2 pieces of felt together. IF the kids are younger, have them just glue the edges. For older kids, draw dots on the felt and they can sew where the dots are.
2. Give the kids of ideas of animals that they can make with the materials provided. (ie, sheep, horse, pig)
3. Kids can create their own puppet. Puppets do not have to be a real animal.  
Challenge: Make an imaginary animal and give it a name.

### IDEAS:

**WOOLEY LAMB:** Attach ears horizontally to the front of the lamb. Glue a bit of cotton "wool" to the top of its head and draw on the face.

**MR HORSE:** For ears, cut out a pair of felt ovals (about 1 1/2 inches long). Fold them in half lengthwise and glue together the lower edges. Glue the bases of the ears to the back of the puppet. Add a fringed forelock, white mane and rounded muzzle. Use a marker to draw jaw lines and nostrils.

**PINK PIGGY:** For floppy pig ears, use 2-inch felt circles. Attach them as previously described for the horse. For pig cheeks and a snout, glue on 1-inch felt circles. **SPOTTED HEIFER:** Make cow ears following the same steps used for the horse. Glue on a pink muzzle. Color bold black spots on the ears and face.

4. When they are done, kids can talk with their puppets and create a puppet show, if they want.

Keep the activity unstructured. Give them ideas, but encourage them to come up with their own animals.

## IMAGINARIUM

Materials: these are some suggestions. You can use anything... just make sure each kid gets the same things. Other ideas are, cotton balls, toothpicks, leaves, bottle caps, buttons, paper scraps. (for example... 10 sticks, 4 rocks, 9 leaves and two pine cones)

The object of this activity is to give each camper identical amounts of natural supplies and let their imaginations go to work. Inform campers that they can make monsters, animals, sculptures, or really anything of their hearts desire. Allow them ample time to complete the activity. Once all campers are finished, have them go around in a circle explaining the sculpture/monster/animal/etc. they've created!

## Tissue Paper Vase

Empty glass bottle or jar or plain vase

Tissue paper: several different colors

Scissors

2 Tbls. white glue mixed with 2 Tbls. water

Paint brush

Process:

1. Cut tissue paper into small pieces.
2. Paint some glue solution on a small section the bottle or jar. Stick on a tissue shape. Paint more glue solution over the top of the tissue and add another layer. Continue until the shape is as opaque as you would like. Don't worry about getting one layer exactly on top of another layer. It looks fine if they are a little off.
3. Continue adding tissue shapes all over the bottle or jar. When you are done, paint a coat of glue solution all over. It will dry clear.

If you want to add a flower or two:

Materials:

Colored paper/ scrapbook paper

Scissors

Green pipe cleaner

Glue

1. Cut out a flower shape. They can trace or cut it how they want (depending on age)
2. Glue a pipe cleaner to the back to act as a stem.

## Yarn Vases: (alternative to tissue paper)

Scissors

Yarn ( variety of colors)

Glue solution : 2 tbsp. glue, 2 tbsp. water

Vase or glass bottle

1. Cut yarn into small pieces.
2. Paint some glue solution on a small section the bottle or jar. Stick yarn to the glue. Continue until the shape is as opaque as you would like. Don't worry about making the vase perfect.
3. Cover the entire bottle with yarn. When you are done, paint a coat of glue solution all over. It will dry clear.

## Beanbag Ball

Materials:

9 (11-inch) balloons (for 3 balls)

Scissors

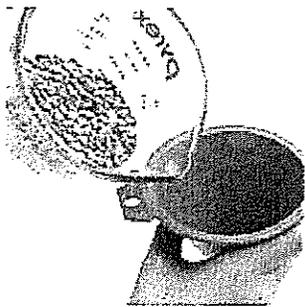
2 ¼ cup lentil or small beans

Funnel

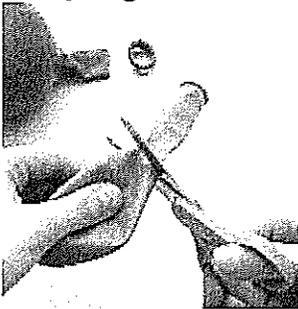
- This craft can also be done with sand.

Process:

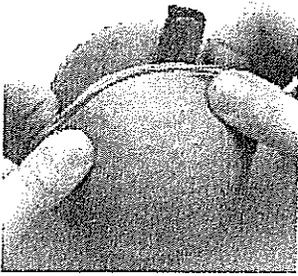
1. Stretch the first balloon by inflating it halfway, holding it closed for about 30 seconds, and deflating it.



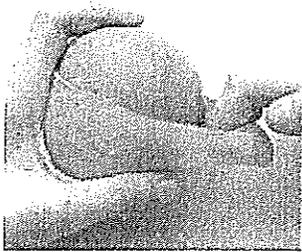
2. Place a funnel in the balloon's neck and gradually pour in ¾ cup of lentils, pushing them in as you go. The balloon should be firm but squeezable.



3. Snip off the balloon's thick rubber lip. Cut the neck off a second balloon and gently stretch the opening.



4. Ease the second balloon over the filled balloon, tucking in the neck as you go.



5. Cut the neck off the third balloon, stretch the opening, and ease it over the other two.

## Colored Lantern

Materials:

Glue and water solution (2 tbsp. water + 2 tbsp. liquid glue)

Scissors

Paint brush

Tissue paper: cut into small pieces, or the kids can cut it themselves

Sequins

White lamp shade: any size ( get from target or IKEA..cheap)

Pencils/ markers if kids want to draw their design first

Process:

1. Ask kids if they want to draw their design first with a pencil or marker. Some older kids may want to.
2. Using a white lamp shade, kids can use the paint brush to spread the glue solution.
3. Place tissue paper on the solution. Tissue paper can overlap.
4. Allow time for the lamp shades to dry.

## Tie Dyed Shoelaces

### Materials:

- White shoelaces
- Bowls or plastic yogurt containers
- Warm water
- Fabric paint
- Stick or paintbrush
- Plastic bag
- Hair elastics, optional

### Process:

1. Tie knots in the shoelaces about one inch apart or cinch one-inch loops with the hair elastics.
2. Prepare each color of dye in its own bowl by mixing equal parts fabric paint and water (start with a tablespoon of each). If needed, add a few drops of paint (to deepen) or water (to lighten) the color. Mix with a paintbrush or stick.
3. Dip each knot or loop into a different color. Remove the lace from the dye after a few seconds unless you want a very dark color. Keep in mind that the colors will bleed slightly. Or you may want to bleed them on purpose so that, say, red and yellow mix into orange.
4. Dry the laces flat on a plastic bag. Do not undo the knots until the laces are dry.

## Tie Dye T-Shirt

### Materials:

- 100-percent-cotton T-shirt
- Rubber bands
- Buckets or dish tubs (4-quart minimum)
- 2 or more colors of fabric dye
- Salt (1 cup per dye bath)
- Rubber bands and marbles and/or coins
- Spray bottles and plastic squeeze bottles
- Sealable plastic bags
- Latex

### Process:

#### 1. Tie It

Grab a small section of the shirt, both front and back layers, and twist it as tightly as possible. Fold over the tip of the twist and fasten it snugly with a rubber band.



2. Make different-size twists all over your shirt, or keep them consistent and in a pattern to get results similar to the T-shirt above.



#### 3. Dye It

Fill the bottles with the individually prepared dye baths and squeeze drops onto your shirt. If you use this technique on a knotted or marbled shirt, try squeezing one color onto and around each of the tied sections.

## Goop/Slime/Gack

### Materials:

- 3 paper cups
- Warm tap water
- Measuring cups
- Plastic spoon
- Borax powder ( can be bought at any grocery store)
- Elmer's white glue
- Food coloring (optional)
- Paper towels
- Sealable plastic bag

### Process:

1. Fill a paper cup halfway with warm water. Add 1 teaspoon of Borax. Mix the borax with a spoon ( Mixture 1)
2. Pour  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of Elmer's glue into a second paper cup. Add 2 tablespoons of water and stir well. Add food coloring now, if desired. (mixture 2)
3. Pour 3 tablespoons of the Borax solution into a paper cup. Add this solution to the glue and water solution. (mixture 3). Stir rapidly until it gets thick
4. Take the goop out and knead it. Allow students to play around with the textures.
5. Store the goop in a plastic bag to take home.
6. Wash hands thoroughly.

## Make your Own Play-Doh

### Materials:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- Tempera paint
- Water

### Process:

Mix flour, salt and paint with enough water to make a play-doh consistency. Add water little by little to avoid making it too watery.

## Bubbles and Bubble Wands

### Materials:

pipe cleaners  
container for bubbles  
water  
liquid detergent (ie, cascade)  
glycerin soap  
sugar

### Process:

- Mold pipe cleaner into desired shape. Connect another pipe cleaner to make a handle.
- Make the bubble mixture: 1 cup water, 2 Tbsp. liquid detergent, 1 Tbsp. glycerin soap, ½ tsp. sugar.
- Place mixture into flat bowl.
- Enjoy making bubbles.
- If you want, put a little food coloring into the water to create colored bubbles.

### Option 2 without using pipe cleaners for bubble blower:

- Take a piece of cardstock and make a cone shape. Tape the shape, so it stays in place. The smaller end is to blow into. Dip the larger end in bubble solution and make bubbles!!!

## Lava Lamp

### Materials

- Clear plastic bottle, cleaned and label removed (our is a 500-milliliter bottle)
  - Vegetable oil
  - Water
  - Food coloring
  - Pie pan
  - Effervescent antacid tablets such as Alka-Seltzer
  - Instructions
1. Fill the bottle just over halfway with the oil, then add water, to an inch from the top. Add 10 drops of food coloring.
  2. Place the bottle on the pie pan to catch potential spills. Cut or break an antacid tablet in quarters and drop one quarter into the bottle. When the bubbling slows, add another quarter-tablet to get it started again. (Adding too many tablets at once will cloud the oil with bubbles.)
  3. To store the lamp, let the bottle sit until all the bubbles have completely dispersed. This prevents the buildup of gas in the bottle. Cap it and put it in a safe place to prevent spills

## Glitter Globe

### Materials

- A plastic or glass jar with a leakproof cap or lid (long and skinny shapes work best)
- Isopropyl rubbing alcohol
- Vegetable oil
- Small beads, sequins, glitter, or other lightweight shiny items

### Instructions



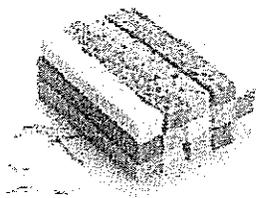
1. To start, fill the jar a quarter of the way with rubbing alcohol (parents should supervise). Next, pour the vegetable oil into the jar to within a half inch of the top.
2. After the globs of oil settle, let your child drop her collection of shiny objects into the jar. Carefully add more vegetable oil until the jar is full to the brim, then screw on the lid tightly and gently shake. **Note:** Glitter will most likely tint the liquid.
3. **What's going on?** When you combine the alcohol and oil, which floats on top? (Ever see salad dressing do something similar?) Now shake the globe hard. The two liquids still won't stay mixed! Why? The answer lies in a property called polarity. The alcohol molecules are polar, with more positive charge in one part and more negative charge in another. Oil molecules are nonpolar, with an even distribution of charge. Polar molecules tend to stick together, because their positive and negative sides are attracted to each other. When you try to mix the alcohol and the oil, the polar molecules stick together and won't let in the oil molecules.

## Sponge Balls

This would be fun because they can take them outside after. Make sure each kid has one color of sponges, so they don't get confused. I like this and the kids could have fun with it outside.

### Materials

- FOR EACH BALL:
- 3 plain kitchen sponges
- Scissors
- Strong string



- Bucket                      For each ball, you'll need 3 plain kitchen sponges fresh from the package and still slightly damp. Use scissors to cut each sponge lengthwise into 5 strips about a half-inch wide. Stack the strips as shown.
  1. Loop a piece of strong string around the center of the stack and pull tightly. Double-knot the string and trim the excess.
  2. For a fast cool-off game, have two players stand a few feet apart, each beside a bucket of water. See how many times they can toss the ball back and forth, taking a step apart and dunking the ball in a bucket before each throw

## **Aluminum Foil Boat**

Materials: alum. Foil and a lot of pennies.

Give each child a 1 ft. piece of aluminum foil. Explain that there is a competition to see who can build the sturdiest boat and hold the most pennies. Boats can be tested in sink or buckets. You can vary this depending on the age of the kid. You can set time limits, if necessary.

## Gumdrop Tower

Materials: toothpicks and gum drops

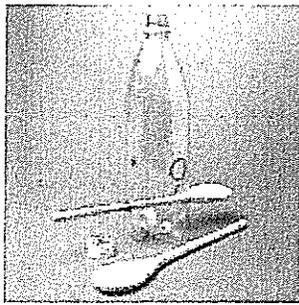
Depending on the age of the kids, have them brainstorm shapes that they think would be sturdy. When I did this, I believe Give each kid a set amont of gum drops and toothpicks. This is totally up to you depending on the number of kids and ages. I try and do at least 20 of each. They can compete to see who can build the tallest tower without any support.

Another option, split them into groups after and have them build together. This can go either way.

## Bird Feeder

This takes some planning ahead of time because of the holes that you need put in it. You can also use sticks instead of wooden spoons.(the dollar store has cheap woden spoons I think though.) Depending on where they are, they could go hang the bird feeders, or they can take them home.

- Clean 1-liter soda bottle
- Craft knife
- 2 wooden spoons
  
- small eye screw
- Length of twine for hanging



1. Start by drawing a 1/2-inch asterisk on the side of a clean 1-liter soda bottle, about 4 inches from the bottom. Rotate the bottle 90 degrees and draw another asterisk 2 inches from the bottom. Draw a 1-inch-wide circle opposite each asterisk, as shown.
2. Use a craft knife to slit the asterisk lines and cut out the circles (a parent's job). Insert a wooden spoon handle first through each hole and then through the opposite asterisk, as shown.
3. Remove the bottle cap and twist a small eye screw into the top of it for hanging.
4. Finally, fill your feeder with birdseed, recap it, and use a length of twine to hang it from a tree.

## Paper Mache Animals

### Materials

- What You Need
- Papier-Mâché paste (see Tips section below)
- Newspaper
- Masking tape
- Scissors
  
- Cardboard
- Forked sticks (optional)
- Cardboard paper towel or tissue tubes
- Newsprint (sold at most office supply stores)
- Acrylic paints and paintbrushes

### Instructions



1. Prepare the Papier-mâché paste. While it cools, shape your animals. For each creature, crumple 2 or 3 sheets of newspaper into balls and tape them together to create a torso. Attach more crumpled newspaper to shape a neck, a head, a tail, horns, and other rounded body parts. For ears, cut shapes out of cardboard, then wrap them in newspaper and tape; if you want to add antlers, attach a pair of forked sticks.
2. For legs, loosely tape on cardboard tubes. Then stand up your animal and adjust them, if needed (to make sure the creature is not wobbly), and tape them securely.



3. Now it's time to apply the papier-mâché. Tear the newsprint into strips that measure about 1 1/2 by 5 inches. Individually dip the strips into the paste, remove any excess paste by running the paper through your fingers, then stick the strips onto the animal. Continue until the entire surface is covered. Apply 2 more layers of strips and allow the papier-mâché to thoroughly

dry (it may take overnight). Once it has, your child can paint her creature any way she likes -- the more whimsically, the better.

**Tips:**

**Paste**

Of all the Papier-Mâché recipes we've tested, we like this one best. It creates a smooth, light paste that's easy to work with.

**What You Need:**

4 Cups Water

1/2 Cup All-Purpose Flour

3 Tablespoons Sugar

Bring 2 cups of the water to a boil in a saucepan. Meanwhile, combine the flour and 2 cups of cold water in a bowl. Stir the paste into the pan of boiling water and bring the mixture back to a boil. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the sugar. Let the mixture cool (it will thicken as it does), and it's ready to use.

## Kaleidoscope

### Materials

- \*Plastic report cover (mine came in a pack of 6, which will make at least 12 kaleidoscopes!)
- \*Empty paper towel tube (toilet paper rolls are too short!)
- \*Plastic wrap
- \*Wax paper
- \*Shiny objects (transparent are best--beads, plastic confetti, etc.)
- \*Paper cutter
- \*1/4" hole punch
- \*Rubber band
- \*Pencil, scissors, tape
- \*Patterned paper or construction paper

### How to make a kaleidoscope

1. Cut a piece of report cover 11" x 5". Measure and score a line at 1 3/8". I used my paper cutter to make a perfect score line.

Score another line 1 3/8" from the first line, and another at 1 3/8" from that line. Then cut the end off 1/2" from that line.

2. Fold your plastic into a triangular shape, using the 1/2" section to overlap.

Tape down the flap to secure your triangular tube.

3. Trace one end of your paper towel tube on your patterned paper or card stock. Cut it out.

Punch a hole in the middle of it.

Tape it onto one end of your paper towel roll.

4. Insert your triangle into your paper towel roll.

5. Cover the other end with a square of plastic wrap. Push the plastic wrap inside the triangle to create a shallow cup.

6. Collect shiny beads, shapes, buttons, etc. Transparent objects work best.

Fill your cup with shiny objects.

7. Cover the end with a square of wax paper. Secure with a rubber band.

8. Cover the tube with patterned paper or colored construction paper. Secure with tape.

Hold your kaleidoscope up to the light and turn to see different shapes and colors dance before your eyes! Then have a good talk about how light reflects off the sides of the triangle and they'll be learning, too. Enjoy!

## Firework Art

Create your own fireworks picture by using dark construction paper, glue and different colors of glitter. These fireworks pictures are great decorations for New Year, Chinese New Year, or Independence Day. The Chinese invented fireworks thousands of years ago.

Supplies:

- Black or very dark construction paper
- Glitter
- White glue
- Old newspapers
- A straw (optional)

Work on old newspapers. Spread glue on the paper in geometric shapes. If the glue is soft enough, you can put a small blob of glue on the paper, and then blow some air through a straw to spread it into interesting shapes. You can experiment with the consistency of the glue and the angle of the straw.

Sprinkle glitter onto the glue. Slide the excess glitter off your picture and back into the glitter container.

Optional: Repeat the glue and glitter process with different colors of glitter. Let the glue dry.

## OR

Have a blast this Fourth of July with these explosive designs: bursts of paint that resemble fireworks in the sky.

Materials

- Acrylic paint
- Drinking straw
- Paintbrush
- Paper (or card stock)
- Water

Instructions

1. For each color, in a paper cup, dilute some acrylic paint with water to a runny consistency.
2. Using a paintbrush, drip a few drops of paint onto a piece of paper or card stock (be sure to rinse the brush between colors), then hold a drinking straw directly over each puddle of paint and blow gently to create a spectacular starburst effect.

## **DOT Painting**

Show budding artists how to paint with a technique called Pointillism. Look at paintings by Georges Seurat for inspiration.

1. Cover your table with newspaper. Draw a very light sketch of your subject on the paper with a Crayola® Erasable Colored Pencil.
2. Pour a small amount of Crayola Washable Kid's Paint onto each produce tray. You can mix colors on these trays to get a nice variety of colors, too.
3. Use the flat, circular end of a Crayola Crayon as your painting tool. Dip your crayon into paint, then firmly press the wet bottom on paper. The crayon will leave a round dot of paint. Use a different crayon bottom for each color you use so your colors will stay fresh and bright.
4. When finished, stand back, and you'll see that all of the dots blend together to make solid areas of color. No lines are needed because the dots give the impression of the picture. Hang up your work, and have a show for your friends and family!