

# BEST CRAFTS

## EMAIL ROUNDTABLE



[RecreationPros.com](http://RecreationPros.com)

## ERUPTING VALCANO



### Materials for Valcano

- Large paper plate
- Bathroom disposable cup (3 ounce is best)
- Aluminum foil
- Scotch tape
- Scissors

### To Make the Volcano Erupt:

- Water
- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Tablespoon
- Cup
- Pan or tray

### Instructions

1. Attach the paper cup to the plate by taping the bottom of the cup to the middle of the plate.
2. Tear off a piece of foil large enough to completely cover the cup and plate.
3. Place the foil over the cup and plate and turn the foil under the plate edge.
4. Tape the foil in place.
5. Poke a hole through the foil into the middle of the cup.
6. Use scissors to make slits from the middle of the cup to the inside edge of the cup. Tape the foil to the inside of the cup.
7. Now make your volcano erupt!
8. Place the volcano on a pan or tray (or you'll get lava all over the place!)
9. Fill the volcano with 2 tablespoons of water and stir in a tablespoon of baking soda until it dissolves.
10. Measure 2 tablespoons of vinegar into a separate cup.
11. Pour the vinegar, all at once into the water/baking soda mixture and watch your lava bubble up!

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## **TINK'S CRAFTS**

### **PAINTED/DECOPAGUED ROCKS**

1. Go on a rock hunt and then you can mod pogue them.
2. Get them a little hot and draw on them with crayon.
3. Do ink designs on them, turn them into pottery stones, turn them into story stones (mod podge things on them), or simply paint them to look like pet rocks.

### **FAIRY WINDCHIMES**

1. Go on a nature hike.
2. Find small pieces of nature along with a couple sticks.
3. Attach the piece of nature to the sticks using rope, along with a piece of rope to hang it up.

### **PIRATE HOOKS/SWORDS**

1. Grab some cardboard.
2. Cut out a piece that looks like a hook with a little extra on the bottom.
3. Wrap it with tin foil.
4. Then attach the bottom to a decorated cup.
5. Cut out a piece of cardboard to look like a sword.
6. Cover it with tin foil to get a sword.

Tin foild can also be painted with thick paint if you want a gold hook.

### **MARBLE PAPER**

1. Put some shaving cream in a tray.
2. Have the kids add a few drops of food coloring and swirl it all around.
3. When they have acheived a look they are going for press the paper onto the shaving cream.
4. Take it off and then let it sit till it is dry (it will also smell good).

### **PLUSHIES**

1. Have the kids design small stuffed animals with felt that can easily be sewn up along the side.  
It's best to have them draw out the animal first.
2. Then start the cutting.
3. Sew it up. If you are using felt then you can use larger sewing needles and thread.
4. Attach a magnet or pin backing to make something you could wear or hang up.

### **CROSS STITCH ON STYROFOAM TRAYS**

1. Either used clean recycled styrofoam trays or ask a butcher for some.
2. Have the kids do a simple drawing (house with flowers, cat) on the back of the tray.
3. Have them slowly sew the pattern into the tray.
4. It is easy to add a ribbon to the top so you can hang it.

## **MELTED CRAYONS**

1. Hot glue crayons to the top of a canvas.
2. Give the kids a hair dryer to melt the crayons down the canvas. You can also give the kids sticks to play with the crayons, or tape to do a design on the canvas and then take it off when the crayon melt is still wettish (if you wait to take the tape off when its dry it will take off more than the tape).

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## **HOLLYWOOD WEEK**

We visit the local movie theater for a movie, popcorn, and tour.  
For the craft we took large piece of construction paper and put the Hollywood Star on the top of the page. Then the students used paint to put their hand print on it

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## **BUTTER**

We make butter with our kids.

1. Get baby food jars and clean them out.
2. Fill jar about 1/2 way with heavy cream (whipping cream) and add a pinch of salt.
3. You can add food coloring if you want.
4. Put lid TIGHTLY on jar and SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE for about 15-20 minutes.
5. When the cream has thickened and become "buttery" drain off the remaining buttermilk.
6. May want to refrigerate for a bit to allow it to harden.
7. Grab some crackers and enjoy!

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## **EDIBLE PLAYDOUGH RECIPE**

<http://www.playdoughrecipe.com/edible-playdough-recipe/>

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup non-fat dry milk
- 1 tbsp honey
- 8 oz. package of cream cheese



Directions:

1. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
2. Knead until desired, doughy texture is achieved.
3. The creating and eating can begin!
4. This takes only about 3 minutes and allows you to surprise your children with the possibility of actually eating the playdough. Watch their surprised faces as you start eating away!

Jill

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(photo)

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## CANDY LAND CASTLE

We just did a Candy Land party and made a castle (group project but can also be done individually).



Supplies:

- paper towel tubes
- toilet paper tubes
- wrapping paper tubes
- ice cream cones
- hot glue gun & glue sticks
- decorations & art supplies (stickers, crayons, paint, markers, etc)

Directions

1. Each kid (ages 4-10) “designed” (colored, stickered, painted, etc) tubes to add to the castle.
2. Each child decided where to attach their tubes.

3. The adult hot glued the tubes where the children wanted to add onto the sculpture.
4. The adult hot glued the ice cream cones to the top of the tubes.

Very simple project and good use of recyclables. Most supplies are already on hand - stickers, paint, crayons, markers, glue, hot glue, etc. The only thing you'd need to buy is ice cream cones. A great project for anything involving a castle - princesses, Disney, knights & princesses, Candy Land (King Kandy's castle), etc. Project can be done individually (depending on age) or a group project to work on teamwork and creativity.

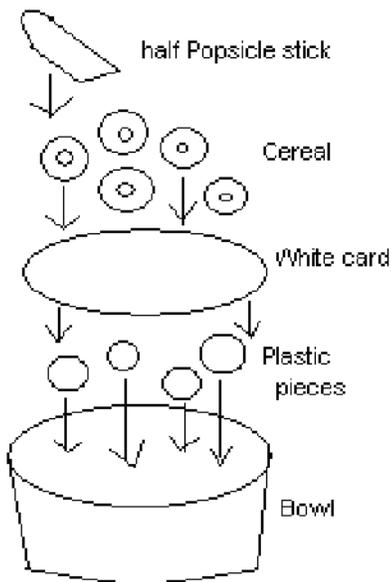
PS - Our "workshop" was fabulous - we created our own "live" Candy Land game. Quoting one of our participants ' "This is the best day of my life."

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## CEREAL BOWL SHAKERS

We had a lot of little pieces of plastic that someone donated.



### Directions:

1. We put a few into a bowl shaped dixie cup
2. Covered it with a white circle of card
3. Then glued cereal on top.
4. We used half a popsicle stick as a spoon
5. And then decorated the outside of the bowl with yarn and stickers.

This was for a cereal themed week, where the characters were all missing from cereal boxes, and we had to get them back. We've done the same idea with little dragons, using plastic easter eggs for the

bodies, filling them halfway with rice, and using felt for wings and feet, and gluing googly eyes on, or drawing faces on.

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## **DREAM CATCHER**

Supplies:

- 1 bendable stick (if you cannot find one, you can take several smaller sticks, and tie them together in a circle shape)
- Several colors of friendship bracelet floss
- Feathers
- Beads

Directions

1. Bend your stick into a circle and wrap some friendship bracelet floss around the part where the two points meet and tie it off. If your stick will not bend all the way, use this process to tie several sticks together in a circular shape.
2. Choose one color of friendship bracelet floss and tie the end around your stick frame.
3. Once it is tied in one spot, you can begin pulling it over and around the frame so that you can see the floss going back and forth if you look through the circle of your frame.
4. Repeat the process in number 3 with as many different colors of floss as you choose.
5. While you are stringing your dream catcher, you may want to add some beads into the middle. You can do this by stringing a bead onto your floss and moving it where you would like it to be. Then take the end of the floss and string it through the same side of the bead that you strung it through the first time. Pull the floss tight, and it will hold the bead pretty much in place.
6. After you are happy with the floss pattern on your dream catcher, you may want to add feather tails. You can do this by choosing a piece of floss, tying it around the ends of some feathers, and then stringing the leftover end of the floss around your frame. You can add 1 tail or more. You may also want to string some beads on your tails.
7. When you are finished adding tails, take a piece of floss, the same color that you used to bind your frame together, and tie it around the binding area to create a loop to hang your dream catcher by.

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## **TIMES SQUARE BALL NECKLACE**

We had a Christmas holiday and New Year camp this year during our winter break at my school so that's when we did this craft. To incorporate for summer you can have a Fave Holidays Week.

Supplies:

- Small beads/ or sequins
- TP roll cut in half as a base

- Tacky Glue
- Small ornament
- String/ribbon/Yarn
- Paintbrush

Directions:

1. Took small silver ball ornaments that I got at the dollar tree (8pk). I have a huge bucket of miscellaneous beads (small, diff colors). Through trial and error we found a faster and more precise way of getting them to stick.
2. Place ornament hook side down in a Toilet Paper roll that has been cut in half.
3. Paint tacky glue on w/ a watercolor paint brush and allow to sit for a few minutes so it's not so wet.
4. Then begin just above where the tp roll and ornament meet. Place beads all the way around and work your way to the top. Allow several minutes of drying time. Then flip and finish the top part.
5. Once it has dried completely add sticky numbers of the year on it and use ribbon/yarn/string to use as a necklace. You can also use sequins instead of beads.

They turn out beautiful. I have my sons hanging from my dash mirror. (You may want to do this in smaller groups or as a rotating craft where they can work on it and then go to a game station to allow it to dry.)

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## TIN PUNCH

Our camp theme this summer is Knights of the roundtable. One craft I will be doing is tin punch.

Supplies:

- 3"x3" piece of tin
- Grease pencil
- Things to trace
- Hammers
- Different size nails

You take the grease and trace a pattern onto the tin, then you use the hammer and nails to "punch" holes along the line of the grease pencil. When complete you can put a hole in the top middle and put a string through it and hang the finished piece if you so desire.

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## **RECYCLE AND REUSE--BOTTLE CAP MOSAIC “STAINED” GLASS ART**

### Supplies:

- Plastic Bottle Cap from various types of bottles-soda, soap, juice, if it is plastic it works--different sizes are good too--All colors--The more the better
- Opaque plexi-glass in various sizes-- 11 by 12 or larger depending on the design
- Photos or graphics of a variety of art that can be reproduced
- Glue that will dry CLEAR
- Paper
- Pencils
- Drill for holes
- Wire or hanging rope.
- Hooks

### Directions:

1. Sort caps by color into a variety of containers.
2. Have campers decide on a design for a picture or art project that can be created using a variety of colors. (example: a butterfly, a flower, a mountain scene)
3. Have them draw an idea including color.
4. Have them read about what ever they are drawing and find out about the object, art piece and mosaic art.
5. Have them read about recycling.
6. Have them calculate how many tops it will take to do their design and what size caps they can best use.
7. Have them lay out their design on their piece of plexi-glass.
8. After they have laid it out and are happy with their design, have them begin to glue it. We have done this with glue guns for older youth--High school age and with Tacky Glue for younger youth.
9. Allow the project to dry.
10. After the art piece is done decide how you would want it to hang and place holes in it to support it. What you hang it on is dependent on the weight of the object. Some hang at angles, others straight. It depends on the item and the individual artist.
11. Hang in a window or in front of a light source--the light will show through making it beautiful and like stained glass.
12. Discuss how the light filters, how the recycled art beautifies the environment and what could have happened if it had not been recycled.

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## **FUN NOODLE FLOWER LEI**

Theme: Aloha, Luau, Hawaiian Day

### Supplies:

- Flower shaped fun noodles or star shaped fun noodles
- cord
- funfoam beads

- one chenille wire per child



Directions:

1. Slice fun noodles into 1 inch slices to create flower shapes.
2. Drill a hole through the slices to form hole for kids to “thread cord” through.
3. Let children string several fun noodle flowers and beads to form lei.
4. Easy threader: fold chenille in half and tie cord onto the wire. Let children use this as a “giant needle” as they make their lei.

Vicki

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(photo)

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## CATAPULT

Supplies:

- lots of craft sticks
- wooden spring clothes pins
- rubber bands
- water bottle caps
- marshmallows

Directions:

1. Lay 10 sticks horizontal to each other.
2. Then glue 3 sticks on perpendicular to them.
3. Flip the stick over and glue a wooden spring clothes pin to it so that the clip is able to open.
4. Glue a second wooden clothes pin to that one.
5. On the second clothes pin wrap one of the ends with a rubber band. This rubber band will hold another craft stick that has a water bottle cap glued to the end about 1/4 inch away from end. The water bottle cap is the holder for the mini marshmallows.
6. Once glue has dried-you are ready to shoot.

Lisa

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## **NATURE CURTAIN**

Last summer we had a "70s" theme night. As sort of a craft/activity combined, I gave each cabin a length of string about six or seven feet long. Each cabin went for a walk outside, collecting whatever the kids wanted and tying them into the strings--so it was sort of a craft-by-cabin deal. We ended up with rocks, leaves, twigs, flowers, bits of plastic, pop can thingies, a cicada shell... all kinds of stuff.

After they had finished making their strings, I hung them, with tacks, over the doorway like a bead curtain. It was there for the rest of the week--not because I wanted to leave it there, but because the kids begged me not to take it down. They were so proud of it! That turned out to be one of the best activities/crafts of the whole summer. :)

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## **STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**

Directions:

1. Lay an image (either drawn or printed onto paper) on to the table.
2. Cover the image completely with cling film.
3. Tear up the desired colours of tissue paper into small pieces (depends on the size of your image, but usually around 1-2cms square).
4. Completely coat each square of tissue paper in glue and place it onto the cling film - when you look through the cling film you can see your picture, using this as your base fill in the gaps with your coloured tissue paper - like a mosaic. Make sure every piece of tissue that goes onto the cling film is covered in glue.
5. When the picture is complete, spread more glue over it - just to be safe!

The glue dries transparent and glossy, so you end up with your very own stained glass window. The great thing about PVA is that it sticks to glass, without any further adhesive (only if the glue surface is smooth, which is why you must make sure you use plenty of it!).

If you prefer, you can cut out a border from black cardboard and use sticky tape to fix them together, then blu-tack it to your window, or hang it from the window frame. Wait for the glue to dry 100% and the cling film will easily peel off, leaving a colourful picture held together in the glue.

This can obviously be used for any theme and younger kids are so impressed when it sticks to the window!

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## **GRAFFITI FIX**

Due to a problem we had with graffiti, we take plywood sheets or varying sizes usually around 2 x 3 and have the kids paint these and make designs.

They often put their names and date too. This is then hung in the cabin. After a few years the cabins look pretty sweet with all these colored boards hanging up. Also, now the kids know they can "leave

their mark” in the cabin “officially”.

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## VINYL ALBUM BOWL



We did this at camp last summer and the kids loved it. This vinyl album project puts those records to good use in and around your house plus they also make cool gifts for the music lovers in your life. It's so versatile and yet so simple but do take care when handling as it does get hot.

This is the website we got it from:

<http://planetforward.ca/blog/green-macgyver-ecofriendly-craftsvinyl-record-album-bowl-planter-and-wall-art/>

### Supplies:

- An old vinyl record
- A heat proof metal bowl
- Oven mitts
- An oven

### Instructions:

#### Step 1: Set Up Your Mould

1. Place the heat proof metal bowl upside down in the oven. The rim of the bowl should be face down on the oven rack.
2. Carefully place your vinyl record on top of the bowl so it's centered.

#### Step 2: Shape your album

1. Once your vinyl record is centered on the heat proof metal bowl and in the oven, turn the oven to a temperature of 200 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Set a timer for five minutes and let the record warm in the oven.
3. Check on it after 5 minutes as it may need another minute or two.
4. When the record starts to droop down around the bowl, put on your oven mitts to protect your hands and remove the bowl and album.
5. QUICKLY place the softened vinyl record inside the bowl.
6. Using your hands, shape the softened record to conform to the shape of the bowl. You'll

have less than a minute to do this before the record hardens, so work fast but don't worry if you miss the mark – you can always place the record back in the oven to soften it again for reshaping.

### Step 3: Allow your Album to Cool

Once your vinyl record bowl cools, remove it from the bowl and it's ready to use. You can use it to hold keys, potpourri, make-up or you can place a doily in the bottom and use it for candy or snacks. It also makes a great planter as it already has a built in hole for drainage. Or you can always just proudly display it on a shelf or hang it on a wall. It's sure to draw compliments from music lovers!

There you have it. An ecofriendly craft that puts past treasures back in demand and diverts items that might otherwise have wound up in a landfill.

Thanks to ehow.com for this great simple craft.

Mikey

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## AQUARIUM

This craft is great to do during a Splish Splash or Beach type theme week. This is a simple inexpensive craft that campers will love. Allow them to be as creative as possible.

### Supplies:

- 1 Gallon Zip Lock Bags
- Water
- Food coloring
- Pipecleaners
- Beads
- Sand, gravel, or rocks.
- Straw or other material for stirring
- Other items to put in the Aquarium

### Directions:

1. Pass out materials to each of the Campers. Have an aquarium ready to show the Campers.
2. If the campers would like to paint or marker things on the bag, it should be done before putting anything in it.
3. Each camper put a bit of sand, gravel, or rocks at the bottom of the zip lock bag. Enough to line about a half inch at the bottom
4. Have each camper fill their zip lock bag with water. Do not fill to the top, there should be a few inches free so they can seal their bags.
5. Put a few drops of food coloring in the zip lock bags. (Let the campers choose more color).
6. Have the campers slowly stir their water until the food coloring is uniform in the water. Add more food coloring if needed.
7. Let the campers put on other materials to fill up their aquarium. Pipe cleaners can act as plants, beads glued together can act as fish. Put out materials that have different densities so some will sink and some will float.

Make sure all materials will be able to hold their form if they are in the water, i.e. plastic.

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## **BOTTLE CAP NECKLACE**

This was a jewelry project. Good for boys and girls.

Directions:

1. We collected many bottle caps.
2. We had printed a sticker that was our logo to fit on the top of the bottle cap. (there are many place to make stickers to order)
3. We make a hole on the top of the cap and strung jewelry cord or string.
4. Then campers strung beads of their choice on the jewelry string, made a clasp and wore their Tall Pines Bottle Cap necklace proudly.

It was a good boy or girl project and it promoted great camp spirit! Not to mention recycling too.

Buffy  
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## **SUPERHERO CAPES**

We're going to make Superhero Capes, with leftover pillowcases and t-shirts.

Simply cut and use sticky velcro to attach. Kids can decorate however they want. It's great since it goes along with the week's theme.

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## **WOODBURNING**

No. I am not talking about campfires, but actual designing on wood using hot hot metal tips. The woodburning kits are decent in price and can be found at Walmart and Michael's.

After etching the design in wood (pine-softer is easier), some soft sanding, and then polyurothane, and bam watch the design pop. This activity is definitely geared towards your older campers and does require safety procedures and strong staff members to supervise.

Steve  
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## **BOTTLE FISH – BOTTLE BASS**

This is a really cute idea and is another recycled craft using water bottles. Our counselors did the prep work on the bottles so we didn't have little ones or their parents handling sharp tools!

### Supplies:

- Plastic water bottle with top cut off and bottom cut out
- Paint
- Paint Brushes
- Paint trays or lids
- Water cups
- Paper towels
- Drill
- Drill bits
- Bead
- Narrow ribbon or yarn at least 30" in length
- Wire tool
- Google eyes
- Super tacky glue
- Stapler
- Scissors

### Directions:

1. Cut threaded top off water bottle using PVC pipe cutter.
2. Cut bottom off water bottle.
3. Paint- using a long handled brush approximately ½' wide, paint on the inside of the water bottle. Use whatever design or colors you choose. Any water in brush will make paints run together.
4. Allow paint to dry.
5. Flatten open end of bottle with palm and staple once in the middle of the bottle approximately 1 ¾" up.
6. Cut out tail from back of bottle. Be sure to begin cutting forming a tail shape in the middle of the bottle bottom. The cutouts can be used as fins as desired.
7. Drill a hole approximately 3 rings back on the top of the fish so fish will balance.
8. Feed wire tool through back of fish and through mouth.
9. Double tie bead to one end of ribbon.
10. Thread other end of ribbon through wire tool.
11. Pull wire with ribbon up through fish.
12. Tie ribbon hanger.
13. Glue google eyes in place.

May glue fins in place if desired.

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## **FIESTA! FIESTA! FIESTA!**

Each of our groups are in charge of making a pinata, that will get filled with candy, and small prized.

To make the pinata you'll need:

- 2 cups flour
- 3 cups water
- 1 balloon
- Newspaper
- Paint, crayons, or markers
- Colored crepe paper
- String

Directions:

1. Blow up a large balloon and tie the end
2. Mix the flour and water together until it makes a smooth paste
3. Cut the newspaper into long 1 inch thick strips and dip into the flour/water mixture
4. Carefully place the strips on the balloon until it is covered, leaving a hole at the top
5. Set aside and let the balloon dry
6. Place another layer of newspaper dipped in the mixture over the balloon and let dry
7. Repeat with one more layer, making sure you leave the hole at the top
8. When dry, pop and remove the balloon
9. Paint your pinata with different designs and colors
10. If desired, hang colored crepe paper from the sides and bottom
11. Punch 2 small holes in the top near the opening and string a large piece of string through the two holes
12. Fill your pinata (through the hole you left at the top) with candy, toys, or any other fun surprises. You should also fill with strips of newspaper so the surprises are not all in one location
13. Tie your pinata in the air with the string and have fun!

You can be very creative with this project. You can design your pinata into any shape (animal, flower, etc.) with your imagination. Use thick colored paper filled with scrunched up newspaper and glue or tape to add any details to your basic pinata structure.

Once the pinatas are complete we line them up and groups get to pick a pinata that is not there s to break.

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## **GREEK GODS AND GODESS'S TIME TRAVEL**

Have students bring in a white bed sheet. Take the white bed sheet and tie-dye it. Then have students wear it for a greek party.

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## **CARDBOARD BUILDING**

One of our best crafts was accidental. We had a rainy day and some large cardboard boxes. The kids (ages 5-10) worked together to create a house out of the boxes, complete with cut out windows, working door and of course, furniture.

Watching the cooperative play in action was amazing, especially considering the range of ages. They continued to work on their house for three days!

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## **GROUP PAINT**

We hung an old bedsheet up between two trees outside and the kids (same group, this was for a day camp) painted with found objects (leaves, twigs, pinecones) and their hands.

At the end of the day we had an amazing piece of art that kept them engaged for at least an hour or two.

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## **RECYCLED ROBOTS**

We send home a list of items--just about anything as long as it is safe to handle--and the kids spend a few days gathering their found treasures. Then we went to work designing our robot and building him.

They ended up being about three feet tall and made from all types of things--bottle tops, computer parts, cardboard tubes, old shoes. Very creative work and no cost! It also helps kids see how to use items that might otherwise get tossed.

Mina  
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## **CEREAL BOX BACK PACKS**

Supplies:

- One cereal box per camper
- Thick yarn for the straps
- Construction paper or paint to cover the box

(This is usually a 2 day project if you are using paint so it can dry)

Directions:

1. Give each camper a box, start with painting or covering the box.
2. Let dry
3. Counselors need to make holes in the back of the box in all 4 corners.
4. Campers can put yarn through the holes to make the straps and tie together.

Kim  
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## **GYMNASTICS (OR ANOTHER SPORT) AWARDS/MEDALS**

Supplies:

- Tan, gold or silver foam sheets
- Small coloring cut outs of gymnasts (or soccer balls...)
- Crayons
- Glue, glue sticks, and glue cups
- Glitter
- String or ribbon cut necklace size per camper

(we do this with our half day campers so break it down through out the week)

Directions:

1. Each child needs to color the gymnasts for their medal (one per child)
2. Then they glue it in the middle of their medal.
3. Write their name on the back with a sharpie and make sure the gymnast is properly glued on.
4. Put glue on medal around the gymnast and sprinkle with Glitter.
5. Make sure the medal fits around their necks for award time.

Kim  
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## **MAKE YOUR OWN SOAP ANIMALS**

Supplies:

- Soap & Water Mixture – Grated Soap & Water
- Wax Paper
- Paper Plates

Directions:

1. Knead the soap and water mixture.
2. You want it to be smooth and have the constancy of think dough.
3. If necessary, add warm water, a little at a time
4. Once the mixture is well blended, form it into any animal shape you wish. Don't be scared to use your imagination.

5. Place Soap animal on a piece of wax paper and let dry over night.

Elaine  
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## **PAINT-A-PALOOZA**

unique project, such as: marble painting, finger painting, painting with snow, painting with hot wheels, painting with cotton balls, etc

### **STRAW PAINTING**

Children of any age will enjoy this art discovery.  
Aim your straw at the paint and BLOW!

Supplies:

- Straws
- Poster or tempera paint
- Paper

Directions:

1. Place drops of paint onto the paper, and blow!
2. Maneuver the paint to go in any direction, by moving your straw.
3. Remind children to take a break, to avoid dizziness.

Combine with a Ping Pong ball blowing game, and you have a science lesson that's really FUN!

### **MARBLE PAINTING**

Marbles, paint and some "Rock and Roll" are used to create a beautiful picture, worthy of any refrigerator gallery.

Supplies:

- Poster or tempera paint
- Paper
- Container - Use Any of these for your painting container: gift box, shoe box, Pringles or tennis-ball can, 13x9 baking dish.

Directions:

1. Place the paint into the muffin tins.
2. Drop a few marbles in each color.
3. Lay the paper into the bottom of box or roll it up for round container.
4. Place marbles from one color into the container and roll around by moving the box from side to side, etc.
5. Remove that color and continue with the other colors.

This painting style can be used to create unique Holiday decorations. Cut your paper into the desired

shape, Heart, Shamrock, Easter Egg Then continue with painting process.

## **STRING PAINTING**

Directions:

Dip a piece of string in paint and lay it on the paper. Or lay it on one side of the paper, fold over the paper, and pull out the string.

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## **COLLABORATIVE ART – GIANT GROUP ART PROJECTS**

### **GIANT MOBILE** (artist - Alexander Calder)

1. Have each student create an animal by painting a 16 oz. soda bottle
2. Attach wiggly eyes, yarn, cork feet, hair (hot glue works well to attach)
3. Then use a large wood dowel or metal rod (6-10 ft long) and several smaller dowels to create a mobile out of the animals

### **BALLOON SCULPTURE** (artist - Dale Chihuly)

1. Blow up lots of balloons (the type you can twist animals out of)
2. Have all students work together to twist them into one GIANT sculpture. The result is colorful and fun.

### **GIANT PRINT**

1. Squeeze finger paint out on a table.
2. While students stand in front of the table talk about paint mixing and color blending.
3. Have all students finger paint together on the table using all the paint.
4. Gently lay a giant piece of paper onto the table, and evenly run a yard stick across the paper.
5. Carefully lift the paper and when dry have students sign the bottom.

### **IF YOU'RE A MONSTER AND YOU KNOW IT** (book by - Rebecca Emberley)

The illustrations in this book are monsters and can be replicated by tearing construction paper to create monsters and backgrounds.

1. Use a large sheet of paper and have students work together to create monsters and depth.
2. Take turns adding paper and layering onto the monsters.

### **GIANT MASTERPIECE**

Coloring pages are available online for famous masterpieces of art.

1. Copy onto an over head sheet and project onto a large sheet of paper.
2. Have students work together to trace and color or paint the work either as the artist did or to

their own liking.

### **MIXED MEDIA LINES** (artist - Frank Stella)

1. Take a large sheet of paper and start in the center and draw straight lines out to the center.
2. Have each student fill in a section in the style of artist Frank Stella.

### **SPLATTER ART** (artist – Jackson Polach)

1. Plastic off an area of floor and wall and hang up a large sheet of paper.
2. Have students splatter paint on the paper.
3. After, paint a frame around the edge of the paper. This can be done directly on the wall for a great permanent work of art.

### **RAIN STICK**

1. Have students work together to pound nails into a cardboard mailing or carpet tube.
2. Pound the nails in a spiral or random pattern being careful not to block inside of the tube completely.
3. Seal off the bottom with tape and pour rice or small beans into the tube and tape off the top.
4. Test the tube you may need more or less rice or may need to add more or less nails.
5. Have students paint the tube completely or uses glue to glue on overlapping tissue paper.
6. Modge podge over the final art.

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### **OWL**



Supplies:

- 6 straws cut in half
- 2 googel eyes
- 1 small square of felt or foam for nose
- 1 key chain hook
- white wool

Directions:

1. Cut 6 strands of wool 12" each, and 1 strand 48" long
2. Put all strands together, put key ring through and knot.
3. Put 2 strands of 12" wool in each straw, leave longest piece for weaving.
4. Push to top of knot.
5. Hold with one hand while weaving the longest piece of wool back and forth through the straws.
6. When you get close to bottom pull out straws and knot.
7. Glue on google eyes and cut shape for nose and glue
8. Trim bottom strands to make even

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## SPONGE PAINTING

We bring paint outside for the sponges and on poster boards clothes pinned to the fence we throw sponges filled with paint so it is like splatter paint.

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## PAPER ROCKET LAUNCHERS



Go to [http://www.1stmerrickville.ca/events/paper\\_rockets/paper\\_rocket\\_launcher.gif](http://www.1stmerrickville.ca/events/paper_rockets/paper_rocket_launcher.gif) for instructions on how to make this paper rocket launcher

Another great resource is the NASA website. For their version of the paper rocket launcher go to <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Rockets.html> to download their Rockets Educator Guide.

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## **PERSONALIZED SNAKE OIL MEDICINE**

Does anyone else remember those joke “medicines” that were filled with jelly beans? Stuff like “Anger Management” or “Aggravation Reducer”. Anyway - you can do this at camp.

Supplies:

- Small clear plastic bottles (so you can see the jelly beans!) Here’s one that might be suitable: <http://www.containerandpackaging.com/item/B334>
- Large shipping label (I’d use 2x4) like this: <http://www.amazon.com/Avery-Shipping-Labels-TrueBlock-Technology/dp/B00004Z5SB>
- Jelly beans of all colors
- Color markers

Kids create the labels for their “medicine” - then, stick it on a jar and fill it with jelly beans. This can be included as part of a larger lesson about what snake oil was and how modern medicine tries to avoid (double blind studies, statistics).

Kids can volunteer to give a “30 second commercial” about their “medicine”.

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## **STAINED GLASS ART**

Not sure how unique this is but you can make “stained glass” art using crayon, wax paper and an iron.

Supplies:

- Wax paper
- Crayons
- Pencil sharpener
- Iron (have the adults manage this)
- Scissors
- Hole puncher
- Yarn
- Optional: puff paint

Directions:

1. Kids use the pencil sharpener to create crayon shavings.

2. They design a shape and draw it on the wax paper.
3. Then they put shavings of different colors inside.
4. An adult will put another sheet of wax paper on top and iron it.
5. Children cut out the shapes
6. punch a hole in them
7. and put yarn through it to create a hanging stained glass object.
8. Optionally - you can create a "leading" affect using puff paint.

I have used this at camp - we decorated the lodge with these. But I can't claim to originate it. Here's another reference: <http://indigoamethyst.blogspot.com/2011/10/wax-paper-stained-glass.html>

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## **EDIBLE PLAYDOUGH** (different recipe)

Supplies:

1. 1 cup creamy peanut butter
2. 1 container of vanilla frosting (yes, the whole thing!!)
3. 2 cups powdered sugar (you will need to add more as you begin to knead it to get the right consistency)
4. 10 drops of food coloring (recipe technically only calls for 3 drops, but you don't get much color with only 3)

Directions:

1. Put all the ingredients into a bowl (if you use food coloring, make it bowl you don't mind getting food coloring on).
2. Stir (I had kids add ingredients and stir as long as they could).
3. Eventually you will need to knead the dough. I recommend an adult doing this part if you are using food coloring b/c you get some on your hands.

This is messy, but the fun kind of messy :) Once it is ready, kids can play with it like play dough and eat it too (it is yummy!!). I put a bit of play dough into zip lock bags for the kids to take it home.

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## **SEEK AND FIND BOTTLES**

Directions:

1. Use a clean 20 ounce water or gatorade bottle.
2. Fill with rice and a number of tiny objects to go along with your weekly theme.
3. Glue the lid on.
4. Attach an answer key to the outside so that children can keep track of the objects they need to find as they tip, spin and twirl the bottle to expose each item.

You could use items to represent specific Bible verses, stickers on a cardboard backing to represent your story or theme, or simple things like plastic bugs or farm animals. Be creative - be thrifty. Have fun.

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Moose's Notes: Have the campers make their own by choosing what toys they want to use and filling the bottles with rice. The adults should glue the top on. I found a site that goes into more detail on these. <http://crazycatladymel.blogspot.com/2008/12/making-seek-find-bottles.html>



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## ART AROUND THE WORLD

We offer an Art Around The World Craft Weekly. Each week it features a different country or region. For example we make paper bag dragons for China, paper mache pinatas for Mexico and tie and die for West Africa.

What makes Art Around the World special is the ambiance we provide. We make sure we have music from the country, a snack from the country and the craft leader dresses and takes on the accent from the country. For example...

West Africa

Craft: Tie Dye

Directions:

1. Buy Rit Dye in various colors.
2. Mix with hot water (see Rit Dye instructions for ratio of water, dye and salt)
3. Put each color in a different metal tin or bucket.
4. Dampen white articles of clothing and tie and twist with rubber bands.
5. Using gloves, dip clothing in dye starting with the lightest colors.
6. Put clothing in ziplock bag w camper's name on it. They can either take it home wet or at the end of the day you can lay them out to dry.

Ambiance: We play traditional West African drumming music.

Snacks: Serve fried plantains (called KelliWelli in W. Africa. Just cut up plantains and fry w a bit of oil)

The leader wears an imitation kente cloth shirt. Really any bright colored outfit will work. We tell a story about the Ashanti Kingdom in Ghana. The story is about the Ashanti's 'Golden Stool.' I'm not going to rehash the whole story but even Wikipedia has a decent retelling of it.

You can really take and country or region and make it into a great Art Around The World experience.

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## **SAND CANDLES**

Supplies:

- various colors of wax
- wicks (available in a spool at craft stores)
- tin cans or old pots to melt wax in
- campstove works well outside for melting wax (it gets messy so find one at Goodwill that you will only use for this purpose)
- pencils or sticks to attach wicks to
- sandy location

Directions:

1. Each camper digs a hole in any shape somewhere in the sand.
2. The camper may want to line the hole with such things as acorns, small stones, sticks, shells, etc. These will attach to the wax and add decoration to their candle.
3. Each camper needs a wick, long enough to tie to a stick or pencil and drop down to the bottom of their hole.
4. Once their stick with wick is set across the hole opening, wax can be slowly poured by an adult into the hole.
5. Let them sit and dry at least overnight, then remove from the sand to see your creation!!

We get donated wax from staff, local churches, candles at Goodwill, etc. Everyone has half burned candles around somewhere so you really do not need to buy the wax.

This makes for an easy, cheap craft!!

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## **ALEX'S FAVORITES**

I work for a camp for kids with special needs, so some of our projects are adapted to meet the needs of our campers. My all-time favorite crafts:

## BAKETBALL HOOPS

For NBA week we made our own basketball hoops.



### Set-Up:

1. Our Facilities manager had some spare 2'x10' which we cut into 3"x3" (for the base) and 2"x3" (for the headboard) pieces.
2. We then cut 6" pieces of 1/4" dowel rods for the pole.
3. We drilled holes in the bases and headboards to fit the dowel.
4. We then took 6" PVC pipe and cut it into 1" rings (for the hoop) and screwed those into the headboard. This was all done beforehand.

### Directions:

1. We then gave the "kits" (headboard/hoop, pole, base) to the kids and let them sand down the rough edges and PVC threads,
2. assemble,
3. and paint as desired.
4. Lastly, we gave them little basketballs (small sized foam balls which we ordered from Oriental Trading) so they could play.

The picture above isn't the greatest, but it does give you an idea of how everything fits together.

## GINGERBREAD HOUSES

For Candyland week, we made "gingerbread houses".

### Set-Up:

I made a house pattern (much like the cube pattern that looks like a cross made of squares until folded) out of cardboard.

### Directions:

1. We gave the cardboard pattern to the kids to fold and tape.
2. Then I had them come up and reinforced with hot glue.
3. The kids then covered the houses with white modeling clay
4. and decorated with beads, string, buttons, and other random things we found in the supply

closet. Some of the kids even added yards complete with trees and fences.

The modeling clay did crack a little as it dried, as clay does- that was one kink I haven't quite figured out how to fix. Because it cracked, it didn't always stay on the cardboard.

## **STICK PONIES**

My absolute favorite- for Wild Wild West week, we made stick ponies.

### Set-Up:

1. I got some thin felt material (in various neutral colors) and cut out 2 horse heads for each project.
2. I included an extra inch or so of material down the neck, which the kids cut into strips for the manes (see photo).
3. I also used the leftover material to cut triangles for the ears.
4. We purchased some 1/2" dowels and cut those into 1 1/2 foot pieces for the stick.
5. I used hot glue to assemble the heads, leaving an opening at the base of the neck. To do this I glued around the edges, like I was gluing two sheets of paper together, and then turned them inside-out (or rather, right-side-in) once dry.
6. Don't forget to glue further inside down the back of the neck- leave some material free so the kids can make the mane. You also have to make sure you use a solid band of glue- some areas came apart where there wasn't enough glue.
7. I also attached the ears.

### Directions:

1. Each camper was given a head, a stick, stuffing, and a piece of string.
2. The kids stuffed their horses and tied them onto the stick using the string.
3. I then went behind them and secured the stick using hot glue.
4. I also put out some markers and paints for them to decorate with.



It probably would have been better if the kids had sewed the head pieces together, but due to time restraints on my part (no time to punch all those holes!), I opted for the hot glue.

Out of all the projects I have done, this was by far the most time consuming- because there was so much to do beforehand. I was not sorry to be finished with this project. But it was also the best project

I ever did, and also a parent favorite!

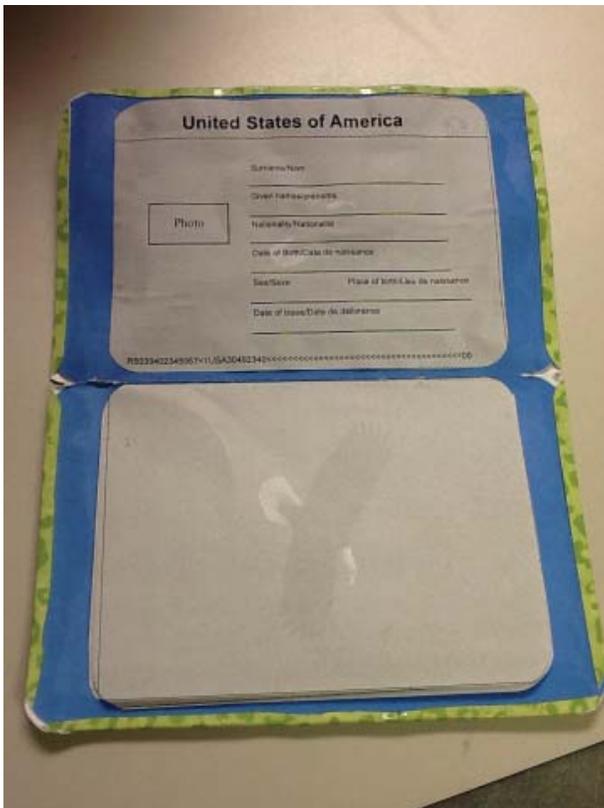
We did a lot of prep work for these projects, due to the needs of our kiddos. Many of the things we did beforehand could be done with typical campers, or done in a different way. I hope these make sense- I'm happy to clarify anything that doesn't make sense from my crazy mind.

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## PASSPORTS TO SUMMER FUN

Last summer we did a theme Passport to Summer Fun. Each child made pretend passport that was stamped as went visited different countries.



### Directions:

1. Take different kinds of card stock and cut them into 8x6 rectangles
2. Fold rectangles in half and round off all four corners
3. Go to the website: [http://mconn.doe.state.la.us/lesson\\_plans.php](http://mconn.doe.state.la.us/lesson_plans.php) and go to page 14 (Passport to the World) scroll down to reproducible materials. You will find the cover of the passports and inside pages for the passports.
4. Print these out and let the kids glue them or staple to the rectangle card stock you cut out earlier.
5. Let the children get creative in decorating and filling their passport out.

As we visited our pretend countries we “stamped” their passports. We used stickers that represented each place we visited, example: kangaroos for Australia. Safe travels!

They also received a Boarding Pass during Camp Orientation. Lots of fun!



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## GIRLZ GONE GAGA

Here at Ramara Township Summer Day Camp we run a one week girls camp called Girlz Rule! for 8-12 year old girls. Each year there's something fashion-like in creating clothing. The usual standby is toilet paper wedding dresses which I must admit turn out really well. However, with the advent of Lady Gaga and her "meat-dress" we decided to go "Girlz Gone Gaga".

Directions:

1. Divide girls into teams.
2. Each team gets a large sized industrial garbage bag and their choice of counsellor.
3. Start by fitting the garbage bag over the counsellor and cutting appropriate head and arm holes and figuring out the overall cut of the dress.
4. Then, remove it from the counsellor and provide the girls with as many odd materials that are possible to create their Gaga creations. We had packing peanuts, water balloons, craft moss, duct tape in all colours, lace remnants, ribbons, drink umbrellas, tongue depressors, socks from our staff who couldn't find the pairs, and the usual staples such as glitter, beads and paper.

They have to develop a theme and pick music and coach their fashion model counsellor down the runway in a fashion show where prizes for the most creative are handed out.

A huge time-filler and fun for all the other camps on site to come and view the fashion show.

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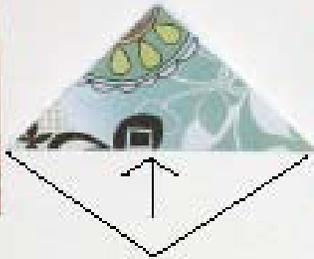
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# Kusudama flowers

1.



Fold the paper in half, creating a triangle.



Fold a smaller triangle with the flap you've created on both sides.



5.

2.



Take the sides and fold them upwards going towards the top of the triangle, making a square.

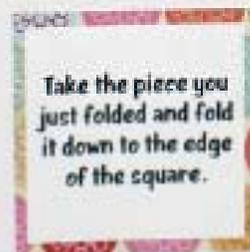


Fold the piece on the side half way on both sides.



6.

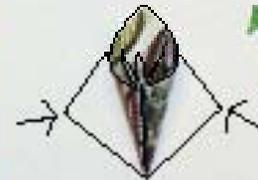
3.



Take the piece you just folded and fold it down to the edge of the square.

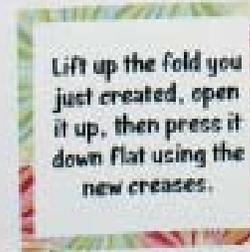


Apply glue on one side of the petal, stick it to the other side and hold with a paper clip.



7.

4.



Lift up the fold you just created, open it up, then press it down flat using the new creases.



Make four more petals. Glue them together to form your origami flower.



8.

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## HAIRY CATERPILLAR



### Supplies:

- potting soil
- grass seed

### each child needs...

- a knee high (get the cheap ones in the little clear snap containers or in a big bag)
- one bobby pin
- two googly eyes
- 3 small rubber bands.

### Directions:

1. Mix potting soil and grass seed
2. Then each child grabs a handful and pushes it to the toe of the knee high
3. They then either tie a knot in the knee high or uses a rubber band to make a 'segment' of a caterpillar (at this point you will have a ball of soil/seed at the end of a knee high).
4. Then repeat, making more caterpillar segments/balls (3 or 4 is good) until you get to the end of the knee high.
5. Glue two eyes on the caterpillar's head (hot glue works best if you have adult help, but Elmer's white glue works okay)
6. Open a bobby pin and push it through the knee high above the eyes (this makes antenna)
7. Either put the caterpillars on waxy paper or Styrofoam plates and spray them very well with water, or tell the campers to do that part at home (put them in paper sacks for the ride home).
8. After a few days their caterpillar gets hairy, and they can trim the hair with scissors if they want to mow their caterpillar.

Another way to do this is to stop after one 'ball', decorate it as a head, then put it on a cup with the rest of the knee high in water at the bottom of the cup (acts as a wick to water the seeds). This activity comes from the Junior Master Gardener curriculum.

Shelley

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## MODEL FLOWER



Another fun one that I've used with kids from ages 8-18 is the model flower made from a straw, tissue paper, toothpicks, a Q-tip, colored sand, and yarn.

It is a detailed and accurate flower model that takes about a half hour to make (or longer, depending on the kids). You can buy the original kit from [www.sciencekit.com](http://www.sciencekit.com) for \$23 (enough material for 30 kids), but once you have that you have the instructions and patterns to make flowers for the rest of your camping days as long as you have tissue paper, straws, etc.

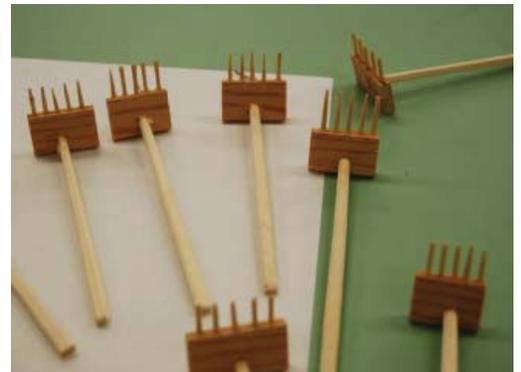
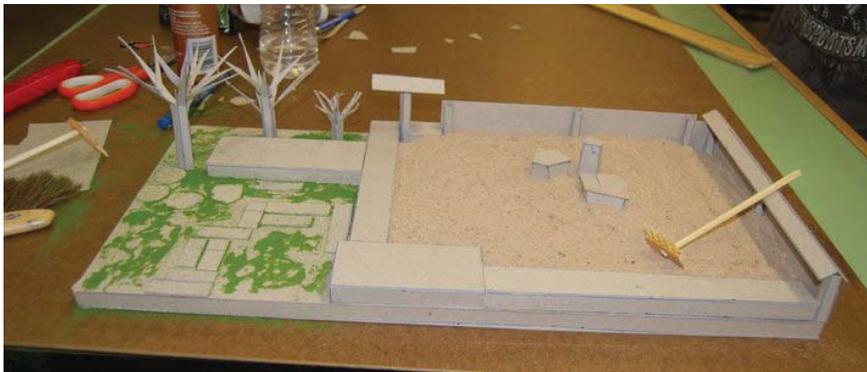
Easy to do with lots of kids at once, keeps them busy, and they love it and it's cheap, cheap, cheap!!!

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## ZEN GARDENS

You can make mini Zen gardens using foamcore pieces (no bigger than 8x10 or so).



Directions:

1. Glue thin strips of cardboard around the edges to contain the sand (or use old picture frames).
2. Then put a thin layer of sand, some rocks of different sizes in it.
3. For the rake, use a tiny stick, glue pieces of toothpicks on it for the tines (hot glue works best), and use part of a stick or chopstick for the handle.
4. You can also make tiny cardboard stepping stones, walls, etc. to get as authentic as you want.

The 'big kids' make much more elaborate Zen gardens, but you get the idea from the pics. . . .

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## MARBLING

One of my favorite camp crafts of all time is marbling!

Directions:

1. You need a plastic tray sprayed with plain shaving cream.
2. Spread the shaving cream out so it is level.
3. Drip some paint or food coloring (liquid watercolor works the best) onto the shaving cream, use more than one color for cool effects.
4. Using a popsicle stick or other small object, gently swirl the colors on the surface of the shaving cream. Do not over mix; you want to see the streaks of color.
5. Now take a piece of white paper and lightly lay it onto the shaving cream.
6. Tap the paper gently so the colors make a "print".
7. Gently remove the paper, lay it down shaving cream side up and use a ruler or other flat utensil to scrape the excess shaving cream off the paper. You are left with a cool swirl of marbled color.
8. Allow the paper to dry and use it as stationery, for signs or crafts projects.

We used black and gray to color our paper then cut them into tombstone shapes. Each camper made a funny epitaph for their "stone". (Here lies Peter, got his thumb stuck on a plum)

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## MINI CAMPFIRE

Supplies:

- Old CD
- Rocks – about the size of a quarter
- Short, thin sticks
- A handful of soil, dirt or sand
- White craft glue
- Small scraps of red, orange and yellow tissue paper
- Toothpick



Directions:

1. Cover CD with glue and use a paintbrush or your finger to spread the glue out for an even coat
2. Cover glue area with dirt or sand and tap off excess.
3. Use your finger to push back a little of the dirt from the edges, all the way around the CD, to make room for the rocks.
4. Squeeze out a generous amount of white glue onto the cleared edge of the CD. Press a rock into the glue. Repeat until entire rim of the CD is covered in rocks.
5. If necessary, break sticks into approximately 4 inch pieces. Using white craft glue, build a "fire" with the sticks by laying them down in a teepee formation at the centre of the CD, gluing as you go.
6. Let everything dry for 2 hours (will not be completely dry, but won't slide around).
7. Tear tissue paper into small pieces, approximately 1" or 2" squares.

8. Place tip of toothpick into the center (don't poke through) of a piece of red tissue paper. Wrap the tissue paper around the toothpick.
9. Dab some glue on the tip and dip it into the sticks, removing the toothpick once inserted. Repeat around the top of the sticks with several red pieces, and then add a few orange toward the middle, and lastly one or two yellow pieces at the top of the stick mound.
10. Let project dry completely overnight.

Thanks to Erin Rabie, Head of Arts and Crafts at Camp Shalom

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## **NO SNOW - TIME FOR CRAFTS**

I have two crafts that I recently did at a camp program. My organization recently went through a huge merger and 4 Girl Scout Councils became 1, so we have many people new to all of our camp properties.

This program was a winter program that got people out to one of our camps. Although they were supposed to do sledding and cross country skiing, we did not have ANY snow, so I had to come up with 2 crafts to fill some of the time they were going to be at the program. They included scarves made from old t-shirts and journals decorated with melted crayons.

### **T-SHIRT SCARVES**



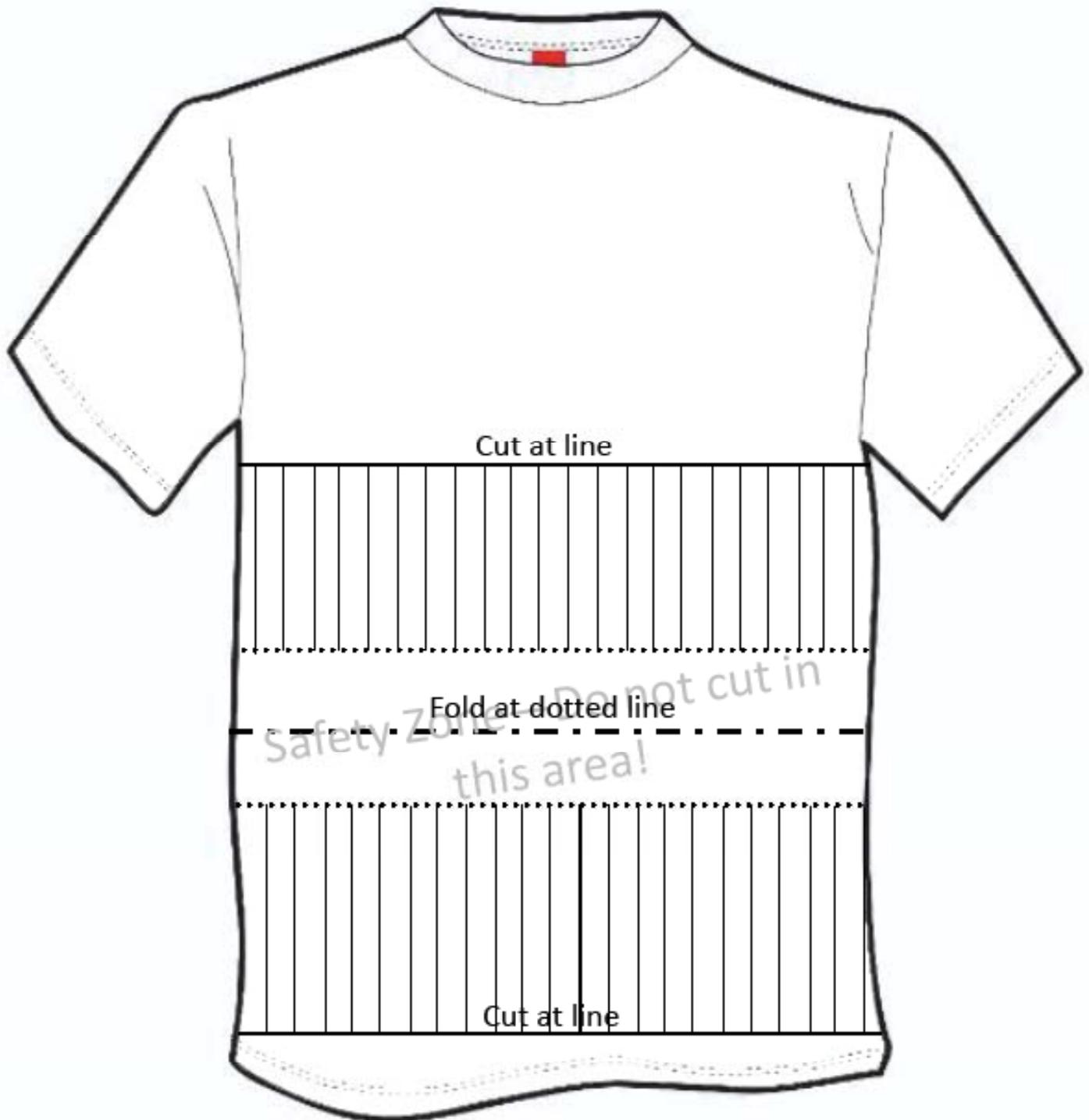
#### **Supplies:**

- Old t-shirts – Solid colored or design, does not matter. Adult Large and bigger works the best.
- Sharp Scissors
- Ruler or straight edge

Directions: (The T-Shirt Cut Pattern on the next page will probably be more helpful than the written word)

1. Cut the hem off the bottom of the shirt

2. Cut across the bust, just below the armpits of the shirt
3. Toss out or repurpose the remaining part of the shirt. You will not need it for this project.
4. Leave the shirt flat. Fold the top of the shirt down to the bottom. (Folding the shirt hot dog style)
5. Cut  $\frac{1}{4}$ " – 1" strips. Leave about 2 inches at the centerfold uncut. This is the "safety zone". If you cut all the way to the center fold, you will not have a circular scarf. Depending on the sharpness of your scissors, you may be able to cut through all four layers of fabric or you may have to cut only two layers at a time.
6. Once all strips have been cut, tug each strip independently to allow the fabric to curl. You will not be able to see the rough cut edges any more.



## CRAYON NOTEBOOKS

This idea came from several crayon crafts on Pinterest.com

Supplies:

- Blank notebooks (I purchased mine from Discount School Supplies)
- Crayons
- Candle Warmers
- Stencils
- Lots of paper towels!

Directions:

1. Warm up the candle warmers before the participants arrive.
2. Take a crayon and place the tip on the candle warmer until it starts to melt.
3. Once the wax of the crayon melts a little, dab the cover of the notebook. The melted wax will stick to the notebook and make a great design. You can either use plastic stencils which make for easy clean up because the wax will just peel off of it. Or you can use a stencil and just trace the outline with a pencil.
4. The candle warmer might start to get more colorful than the notebooks, so you will need to take a paper towel and wipe the hot plate of the warmer. Be careful because IT'S HOT!



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## SOAP BUBBLE PRINTS

One of my camper's favorite crafts was soap bubble prints. They didn't turn out as well as I thought they should, but were still very fun.



Normally, blowing bubbles with a drinking straw is taboo for kids. Not this time! In fact, that's half the thrill of making these marbled prints.

Supplies:

- Store-bought or homemade bubble solution (see Step 2 for homemade recipe)
- Copier paper or light-colored construction paper
- Plastic drinking straws
- Newspaper or plastic tablecloth
- Several shallow disposable containers, such as aluminum pie tins

Directions:

1. Cover your work surface with a thick layer of newspaper or a plastic tablecloth.
2. Gather several shallow disposable containers, such as aluminum pie tins. In each, blend 1 cup of store-bought or homemade bubble solution with 1/2 cup of tempera paint. (To make your own bubble solution, mix 3 cups of water, 1 cup of dish soap, and 1/4 cup of corn syrup.)
3. Set out your paper (try copier paper or light-colored construction paper) and several plastic drinking straws. For younger children, pierce a small hole halfway up the straw with a pin; this will help prevent accidental swallowing of the paint but won't interfere with the bubble-blowing process.
4. Now for the fun. With one end of the straw submerged in the bubble solution, the kids blow until bubbles mound up in the container. The best time to take a print is just as the bubbles begin to overflow.
5. Gently touch the paper to the bubbles and then lift to see your print, repeating until the paper is sufficiently covered. Blow more bubbles as needed. For a different effect, try printing one color over another.
6. Blow more bubbles as needed. For a different effect, try printing one color over another.

Excerpt from Family Fun website:

<http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/soap-bubble-prints-667851/>

<http://familyfun.go.com/how-to-videos/familyfun-bubble-prints-762295-v/> (video)

Nicole

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## **SAND CASTLE CANDLES**

For our Ocean Week we are going to create "Sand Cast Candles". We are going to get a couple of tubs and put sand in them.



To save money and since we are close to the ocean, we can go to the beach and fill up the tubs with real "beach sand" (you could also use sand from the store).

The kids will then get to create a design in the sand (not too complicated) and an adult will pour the wax into the sand and a wick will be hung. When the candle has dried the kids get to take these wonderful creations home.

We also let them use a piece of driftwood, or something with their candle! Inexpensive and fun!

Viki  
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*Moose's Notes:*

*I found a couple of cool links for this project. The first is a written how-to article and the second is a video. Enjoy.*

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2071814\\_make-sand-cast-candles.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2071814_make-sand-cast-candles.html)

<http://youtu.be/xEhRvCntyeg>

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## **SCRATCH & SNIFF PAINTING**

Mix packets of kool-aid into water color or tempera paints to get cool scratch & sniff paint.

<http://www.thepickyapple.com/blog/2010/06/02/scratch-and-sniff-paint/>

## **ICE CREAM SUNDAE IN A BOWL**

Use salt dough and shaving cream to make colorful ice cream sundaes.

[http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft\\_themes/Food/Ice\\_Cream\\_Sundae/Ice\\_Cream\\_Sundae.html](http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Food/Ice_Cream_Sundae/Ice_Cream_Sundae.html)

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## **PUZZLE PICTURE FRAME:**

Directions:

1. Using popsicle sticks, make a square frame.
2. Glue pieces of puzzle onto the frame. To make it cohesive, I suggest using the same puzzle, but you can mix it up.

This is a great way to deal with puzzles that are missing pieces.

Stacie  
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## BABY PET TURTLES

Found this craft on a website that I use often for younger age children. You can find visual instructions at <http://www.busybeekidscrafts.com/Baby-Pet-Turtles.html>

Have the kids make their very own Baby Pet Turtles! This is a fun and creative turtle craft for school-aged children! Make a whole family in different sizes and colors!

Here's what you'll need...

- Construction paper
- Yarn (we used multicolored yarn)
- Glue
- Green pipe cleaner
- Google eyes



Here's how you make them...

1. Cut a circle from construction paper - choose a color of paper that is similar to your yarn. Our circle was about 2" in diameter, you can make yours as big or as small as you'd like.
2. Spread glue around your circle.
3. Starting in the center of your circle start winding the yarn in a flat spiral. Try to make your spiral as tight as you can.
4. Continue the spiral all the way to the edge of the paper circle, adding more glue as you go if necessary. Cut the yarn and glue the end in place.
5. Cut some green pipe cleaner and make some small "U" shaped legs for your pet Turtle, as well as a head and a tail. Turn your "shell" over and glue the turtle's parts onto the back. Glue on your google eyes and you're done!

Donovan

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## PAINT PARTY

This one is not so much a craft, but could be a game/activity. It's a change from the ol' Tie Dye.

Directions:

1. Get the kids to bring some white clothes that they don't mind getting dirty/messy.
2. Fill up containers with a non-toxic paint, and have brushes available
3. If doing this with little kids, maybe get them to wear goggles as they will sometimes get it in their eyes.
4. On "Go" it's a free-for-all of paint fighting. Just make sure there's no contact, just paint-splattering.
5. Hang clothes to dry.



Clothes turn out really cool! Make sure kids are wearing bathing suits underneath so they can go in the water after to rinse off.

Robyn  
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## POP-TOP BRACELET



### Directions:

1. Collect the pop tops from soda cans, beer cans or other sources.
2. Clean the pop tops with detergent and water. Dry completely.
3. File away any rough edges on the pop tops.
4. Select a stringing material. Your choice of stringing material will depend on the bracelet design you select. Be sure to consider the color and texture of the stringing material as you create your design. If you want to make a cuff bracelet without a clasp be sure to use a stringing material that has at least a little stretch to it. Leather, imitation leather, plastic cord, silk cord or ribbons are all good options. If you are designing a bracelet with a clasp, then you will need a stringing material that supports that clasp you select.
5. Measure your wrist or the wrist of the person for whom you are making the bracelet. Determine the number of pop tops you will need based on the size bracelet you are making and the design you select. Be sure to measure the widest part of the hand when calculating wrist size. To measure a wrist, fold in the thumb and measure just under the thumb.
6. Feed ribbon to create simple bracelet. Arrange the pop tops in a pattern that is pleasing. You can arrange the tops so that they are horizontal or vertical. You can arrange the pop tops in one layer or more.
7. Weave cord to create large bracelet. Feed the stringing material through the holes in the pop tops so that you weave the pop tops together. Again, there are many designs that can be used to weave the pop tops.
8. Tie off the end of the stringing material so that it is secure. You can use a drop of glue for extra security, if needed. Note that if you chose to add a clasp, you will need to do so before securing

the stringing material.

9. Use a bow rather than a clasp. As an alternative to a clasp or a cuff, you can use a ribbon and simply tie the stringing material in a bow rather than a clasp.

Sheri

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## PEGGY'S CRAFTS

### PILLOW CASE COLORING

One year I got our logo printed on pillow cases. The kids used fabric markers to color.



### BUTT BUCKETS

This project was fun, we found a company who gave us a discount on these buckets and lids. We used magic markers and duct tape to decorate. We called them butt buckets and they used them to sit on during the week and store stuff in.



## “CAMP NO-WORRIES” BOARD GAME



In 2009 I made up a board game called ‘Camp NO Worries’. I used rubber stamps to make the two sides. I took it to a printer and had them print on heavy paper then glued to folding boards that I found at the craft store. The game was made up of things of camp (checking-in, swimming, crafts, etc.) then decorated all around with camp stuff.

Each camper got a package of colored pencils to color their game. We gave them a draw string bag (Oriental Trading), a set of dice (got these from casinos in Atlantic City), then they could pick 6 game pieces. I ordered rubber erasers, buttons, little pieces of whatever for game pieces.

Not only was it fun on the day we did these but they continued to color at cabin time and played each other’s games during the week.

Loved this one!

## BIRD FEEDERS



A fun but messy craft is Pine Cone bird feeders/ Potpourri balls.

Directions:

1. For the bird feeder- mix Crisco with some corn meal to make a sticky paste.
2. Smear over a pine cone with pop-sicle sticks and roll in bird seed
3. For the potpourri balls – glue pieces of potpourri and flowers onto pine cone



Easy craft

## FUN FRAMED MIRRORS

This is a project we did last year at Camp No Worries.



Set-up:

1. We used wood framed mirrors.
2. I collected all kinds of bottles, dishes, shells, clear flower stones, etc.
3. I broke up the bottles and dishes and put the pieces in a stone tumbler to smooth out the edges.
4. We took all the mirrors out of the frames and nailed the hangers on the back before camp.
5. We got tile glue to glue the pieces on the frames.

The kids were so creative with this as the pictures show. Then we grouted all the frames. We had them start the frames on the first day so we would have time to grout. We were grouting up until Friday! We put all the mirrors back in and covered with bubble wrap.



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## **SCROLLS**

This was an “on-the-spot” craft--our schedule had gotten messed up and we had an extra craft slot. The crafts director came to me begging for a quick idea. I looked quickly into the crafts cabinet to see what we had extra of, and it turned out to be dowels, so we decided to make scrolls.

Ours is a Bible camp, so every day the kids memorize Bible verses. We printed the Bible verses in fancy fonts on regular computer paper. Then the kids ripped the edges of the papers, crumpled them, and painted them with coffee (not too strong).

After the pages dried, the kids ripped the edges off. This gave the pages an “old” look. Then they taped the top and the bottom edges of the papers to dowels and rolled the page up around the dowels to create a scroll.

Sarah  
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## **KELLI’S KREATIONS**

### **CAMERA OBSCURAS**

Supplies:

- toilet paper tubes (2 per person)
- wax paper
- tin foil
- safety pin
- tape

Directions:

1. Each person gets 2 TP tubes, a piece of wax paper and a piece of tin foil (big enough to cover the hole in a TP tube)
2. Cover 1 TP tube with wax paper tightly (CAREFUL NO HOLES!) and tape down.
3. Cover the other with tin foil tightly (CAREFUL NO HOLES) and tape down.
4. Tape the 2 TP tubes together with the wax paper in the middle and the tin foil on top.
5. Make sure that no light gets in, add more tape or a tin foil cover as needed.
6. Poke a small hole in the tin foil and look at a lighted area.

### **CHRISTMAS CRACKERS**

Supplies:

- toilet paper tubes
- wrapping paper
- ribbon, candy
- confetti

Directions:

1. Wrap the tube in paper. Tie one end with ribbon or yarn.

2. Fill the tube with candy and confetti
3. Tie off the other end and decorate the tube.
4. Trade tubes with friends!
5. The crackers play like wish bones: each person holds an end and you pull. The person with the bigger hat gets to keep the candy or small trinkets in it.
6. These work for Christmas but I have done them for 4th of July, Valentine's Day, and just for fun.

## **MUFASA MANES**

Supplies:

- paper grocery bags
- crayons
- scissors
- glue
- stapler
- elastic

Directions:

1. Each child needs a grocery bag. Cut the bag so that it only comes down to the child's shoulders and cut out a skinny section of the bag for the kids head.
2. Keep the scraps for ears and other pieces
3. Color the bag! The mane bit is about 3 inches from the edge. Cut fringe all around the edge (3 inches in) and bend in
4. Cut circles out of the scraps. Color a ring around the outside edge of the circle.
5. Cut a slit to the center of the circle and fold them in to make ears. Glue together then onto the hat!
6. Cut elastic or yarn to fit and attach it to the front of the hat. And then scrunch the rest of the bag so that it looks more rounded.

## **REVERSE TIE DYE**

Supplies:

- colored t-shirts
- bleach
- rubber bands
- plastic bags

Directions:

1. Fold up the colored t-shirts like you were doing tie-dye and rubber band them. Make sure the rubber bands are tight.
2. Soak the t-shirts in a tub of bleach with some water in it until notice color starting to change.
3. Put each t-shirt in a plastic bag with the girls name on it.
4. Rinse out the t-shirts and then wash. I wouldn't leave it over night

## **SANDPAPER TRANSFERS**

Supplies:

- sandpaper
- crayons
- iron
- cardboard
- wax paper
- t-shirt

Directions:

1. Heat up the iron!
2. Draw out the design you want on the gritty side of the sandpaper
3. Color very thoroughly. Blow off all excess crayon dust
4. Place a piece of cardboard in the t-shirt under where you want the design to be
5. Place the sandpaper design down on top of the space where the cardboard is
6. Place a piece of wax paper over the top of the sand paper and iron.
7. Keep ironing until no more oily grossness comes up.
8. Lay out to dry for about 5 minutes!

## **TRASH BAGS**

Supplies:

- trash bags
- glue
- paper
- etc...

Directions:

Can be used for all things!!! Capes, skirts, Hula skirts, mines, etc...

## **WALL STICKERS**

Supplies:

- contact paper
- acrylic paint or permanent markers
- scissors

Directions:

1. Flatten contact paper
2. Paint/Draw whatever picture you want or letters!
3. Let dry.
4. Cut out the shapes
5. Peel off backing and stick to the wall!
6. They peel right off!!!!

## **WORRY DOLLS**

Supplies:

- straight clothespins

- glue
- yarn
- fabric scraps
- markers
- pipe cleaners
- etc...

Directions:

Give each girl a clothespin and have her decorate her doll! In Guatemala, kids tell their troubles to their dolls, tuck them under their pillows and their worries disappeared by morning. GREAT FOR HOMESICKNESS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## **COLOR WHEEL**

Supplies:

- cardboard circles
- paper
- crayons
- yarn

Directions:

1. Each girl gets a cardboard circle, trace around it twice on a piece of white paper. Each of those circles gets colored as a color wheel.
2. Cut the circles out and glue them to either side of the cardboard circle.
3. Punch 2 holes in the center of the circle.
4. Cut a string about 2 arms lengths long and string it through both holes in the circle.
5. The toy works by having an even amount of string on both sides, wind it up (a lot or it doesn't work), bring your hands together to get it to rewind itself and pull your hands apart in order to get it to spin. It will mix the colors into white.

## **OWL CLIPS**

Supplies:

- Cloths pins
- feathers
- googley eyes
- glue
- markers
- yarn

Directions:

To do when the girls first get here. Each girl gets to decorate her own owl clip to hang mail from. It hangs from each girl's bed and they can hang outgoing mail and you can hang incoming mail. This lets you not do mail call and freak out the girls who didn't get any mail

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## WATERMELON EARRINGS

Here is an arts and craft activity that is really cool! Although it sounds really complicated, it really isn't!



These watermelon earrings are perfect for summer! In hues of pink and red, they will go with many outfits. The watermelon earrings are made out of polymer clay.

A polymer clay watermelon cane is made, and slices from this cane become the watermelon slices. You can make several sets of these earrings at one time, perfect for summer craft bazaars or to give away as gifts. Or, you can use the rest of the beads to make a matching necklace or bracelet.

Do not be intimidated if you have never worked with polymer clay before. All the instructions are included below. If this is your first time working with polymer clay, be sure to check out the tips and techniques article at <http://www.crafts-for-all-seasons.com/working-with-polymer-clay.html>.

### Supplies:

- red or pink polymer clay
- green polymer clay
- white polymer clay
- pasta machine for clay, or a rolling pin or brayer
- cutting blade for polymer clay
- needle or pin
- permanent sharp tipped marker
- earring findings (either posts or dangle earrings)
- Needlenose jewelry pliers

### Directions:

1. To begin the watermelon earrings, you must first make a polymer clay cane. A polymer clay cane is a log of clay, that usually incorporates a pattern inside it. The pattern is revealed when small slices are cut off the log, or cane. They are fun to make! This polymer clay cane is an

easy one, perfect for beginners.

2. To begin the cane, roll a small amount of red or pink clay into a log. Mine was only an inch long or so, and about ½ inch in diameter. If you want to make a lot of beads, then make the cane longer.
3. Next, roll out a layer of white clay using the largest setting on your pasta machine. If you do not use a pasta machine, use a rolling tool to make a flat sheet of clay.
4. Place the red cane on top of this white clay, and trim the edges of the clay to the same size as the length of your red cane, using a blade.
5. Then, roll the white sheet of clay around the red cane.
6. Repeat the steps above with a layer of green clay. The green clay will wrap around the red and white cane. This is one of the most simple canes to make, yet the effect is very realistic. The cane is done and ready for compression.
7. Gently roll the cane back and forth under your palm, applying even constant pressure. You want to reduce your cane only slightly, and eliminate any gaps between the layers of clay.
8. Then, place the cane into the refrigerator for about 30 minutes to 1 hour to chill down. If your cane is sliced when it is warm, the colors may blend together and you may not get crisp edges (lines).
9. When the cane is cool, use your polymer clay blade (or razor blade) to cut off slices 1/8 inch thick. To make one set of earrings, you only need one slice.
10. Cut this slice right in half to resemble the two watermelon slices.
11. If you plan on making dangle earrings, use a pin or needle to poke a small hole at the top of the watermelon slice, where you want the earring to hang. If you are using post earring backs, there is no need to make a hole.
12. Bake the clay in a preheated oven for the recommended temperature and time.
13. Allow the watermelon slices to cool completely.
14. Use a permanent sharp tipped marker to draw on little watermelon seeds.
15. Paint the watermelon slices with a coat of sealer, if desired (or use clear fingernail polish).
16. If you are making post earrings, simply glue on the earring backs to one side of each slice. If you want to make dangle earrings as shown here, first you need to open and thread on a jewelry loop through the tiny hole you poked. Use needle-nose jewelry pliers to help open the loop. Then, open the small loop on the end of the dangle fish hook earrings with the pliers, and thread this onto the jewelry loop. Close up both loops tightly with the pliers.

The watermelon earrings are now ready to wear!

<http://www.crafts-for-all-seasons.com/watermelon-earrings.html>

Sue  
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*Moose's Notes: For visual step-by-step instructions go to the webpage above.*

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## **BIRD BATH**

Here is a fun craft idea that can be used during the summer/gardening theme/outdoor theme

Supplies:

- clay pot 5"/6"/7" what ever size you want and a clay saucer that goes with it

- acrylic paint
- silicone glue
- exterior varnish
- stencils - design ideas - imaginations

Directions:

1. Turn the pot upside down and free/design/picture paint it. Some painted flowers, birds, the sun, others painted designs. Paint the saucer inside and out.
2. When dry make sure the pot is upside down and glue (silicone glue) the saucer to the “new” top of the pot. Make sure the saucer is pointing up so water will stay in.
3. When dry varnish with exterior varnish.
4. Put out in your garden and fill suacer with water.

The birds will be happy! This can also be filled with bird seed!

Megan  
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## SERVICE PROJECTS

### PAINTED RAIN BARRELS



We painted rain barrels as a service for our camp. Each camper added according to the theme for the rain barrel.

### MARINE LAB CURTAINS



We worked on curtains for our marine lab. Campers added a piece to the scene. The finished product is full of marine life and hanging in our marine lab.

Mrs. Mac  
 olderunne@aol.com

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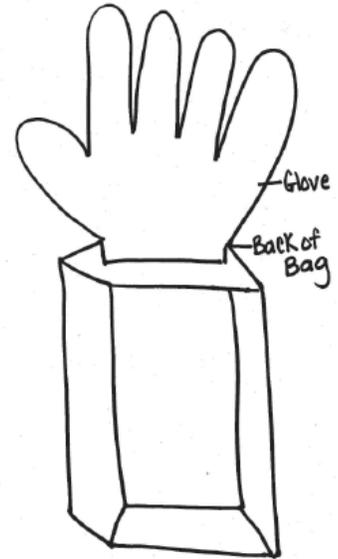
## BASEBALL GLOVE BROWN LUNCH BAG CRAFT

### Supplies:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Tape/Glue

### Directions:

1. Color and cut out the baseball glove cutout that you have made
2. Open the lunch bag up. Glue/tape the glove onto the back top edge of the lunch bag. The glove should be barely touching the bag (just enough to glue it securely), all of the fingers should be sticking out from the bag. (Think of it as the cut out glove is giving you a back-board and the lunch bag is the glove.
3. Roll up scrap pieces of paper to create pretend baseballs. Have campers throw their pretend baseballs into the glove and see how many catches their glove can make.
4. Cut out of a baseball glove (this can be free handed as well-or simply trace your own hand and make the fingers a little wider)
5. Markers, crayons, colored pencil



This can work with other sports as well; a hockey net placed on the top of the bag and the bag turned sideways; a basketball hoop backboard, a soccer net, etc.

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## COLOR MAGIC

### Directions:

1. Color a design on a white piece of paper. (Various bright color scribbles work best) Color darkly.
2. After the page or area is covered with color, color over it with a black crayon heavily.
3. Press down hard with the black crayon so that all of the colors are covered.
4. Use a paperclip or pin to scratch out a design or fireworks display. (paperclips work best but do not break or alter usual shape)

Campers like to scratch out their name in this.

---

## FUN WITH WOOD

My favorite camp crafts have always been made out of twigs, tree branches, and trunks!

### WOODEN CROSS

### Directions:

1. find two tiny twigs

2. cut one to make it 3 inches long and the other twig 2 inches long
3. using a red thread, tie the two twigs together forming a small cross

## **CANDLE HOLDER**

This craft is for decorative purposes only! Not to burn!

Directions:

1. buy inexpensive candles (3x5")
2. cut enough branches (5" high) to glue onto the candle forming a candle holder
3. tie raffia ribbon around the branches

## **TREE RINGS**

Directions:

1. after a storm find small trees that have been upended
2. cut the trunks into 1" slices
3. starting at the center of the trunk have the children count the rings until they find the ring representing their age and label it
4. they may label other rings to represent life events
5. shellac the craft to preserve their story
6. Use as a coaster or paper weight.

Sally

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## **SUSAN'S PICKS**

### **SHAVING CREAM ART**

One of the easiest craft ideas that our kids love is Shaving Cream Art. Give each child a pile of shave cream and they can draw in it. Also good to use it for educational value, i.e. write spelling words, do math problems, etc.

### **CONSTRUCTION PAPER FLOWER GARDEN**

Supplies:

- construction paper
- craft sticks
- foil
- pans
- dirt
- grass seed

Directions:

1. Fill a small foil pan with dirt and plant the grass seed.
2. Using craft sticks and construction paper, make flowers by cutting out petals and leaves.
3. Place the flowers in the pans and water.
4. In a few days, grass begins to appear. Kids can trim the grass using scissors.

## **COFFEE FILTER SUNFLOWER**

Supplies:

- coffee filter
- markers
- crayons or paint
- construction paper
- sunflower seeds

Directions:

1. Paint or color a coffee filter yellow
2. Make cuts to the center of filter to make petals
3. Glue filter to a piece of construction paper (not yellow or green)
4. Cut out a stem and leaves and add to the filter to make a flower.
5. Glue sunflower seeds in the middle of the flower to make the sunflower.

Susan

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## **CRAFTS WITH DEBBIE**

### **SNAKE TIES**

Directions:

- Ask for donations of men's ties, the more colorful the better!
- Stuff the insides (there should be a hole at the bottom or wider end of the tie) with stuffing material, beans, rice, paper, whatever you have available.
- Stitch closed the opening where you were stuffing.
- Glue on eyes and a forked tongue made from felt and you have a snake!

### **SUBSTITUTE FOR COLORED SAND**

Colored sand can be expensive so we use inexpensive table salt colored with grated sidewalk chalk.

Directions:

1. Just make several separate cups of salt and rub the side of the chalk (we usually use plastic spoons) into the cup.
2. Mix and keep adding till you get the right color. We like to use baby food jars to layer the colored sand in and then glue shut.

## **NATURE BRACELETS**

Very easy but the younger kids enjoy.

Directions:

1. Make a bracelet of wide masking tape turned sticky side out for each child.
2. Then go on a nature hike or we just walk around our school building and the kids attach things they find to their bracelets, for example flowers, leaves, small sticks, blades of grass, etc.

We usually stress no bugs or insects go on the bracelets!

## **PROJECT FUNWAY**

Dress up day with garbage bags, duct tape, colored saran wrap and newspapers (NOTHING OVER THE FACE!). The kids love to design outfits out of these items. We basically just turn them loose and let them create whatever. The boys tend to do superhero type costumes and the girls are more fashionistas, even making bridal gowns.

We have a fashion show at the end.

Debbie

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## **SANDPAPER PRINTS**

I love the art project sandpaper prints. They turn out really cool!

Supplies:

1. piece of fine grain sandpaper, any size
2. piece of white construction paper, twice the size of the sandpaper
3. crayons
4. iron and newspapers

Directions:

1. Draw a picture or design on the sandpaper. Color very heavily. Remind the children that if they use letters or words that they will come out backwards on the ironed print.
2. Lay the sandpaper on the newspaper, picture facing up. Cover with the white construction paper, making sure the design will be in the center.
3. Preheat the iron to a medium temperature. Move gently across the paper in one direction and then move back again. Lift the white paper gently and carefully as it and the sandpaper will be very hot.

Jaqueline

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## CURLY BIRDS

Feather your nest with these colorful birds made from loops of paper.  
From [www.familyfun.com](http://www.familyfun.com)



### Supplies:

- Card stock
- Scissors
- Glue
- Clothespin
- Toothpick

Total Time Needed: 1 Hour

### Directions:

1. First, use this guide to measure and cut the card stock strips you'll need for each bird
  - a. Body: 5 (1 inch wide) strips, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 inches long
  - b. Head: 2 (1 inch wide) strips, 2 ½ and 3 ½ inches long
  - c. Tail: 5 (1 ½ inch wide) strips, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 inches long
  - d. Beak: 1 (1 by 2 inch) strip
  - e. Eyes: 1 (1 by 1 ½ inch) strip
2. Roll the body strips into circles, overlap their ends about ¼ inch, and secure with tacky glue
3. Nest the circles and glue them together (Tip: Use a clothespin to hold the pieces until the glue dries. Do the same with the head strips, then glue the head to the body.)
4. Trim the tail strips into long triangles and then curl them a bit before gluing them together. Glue the tail to the body
5. Fold the beak rectangle in half and then cut off the two folded corners at an angle, as shown
6. Fold in the tabs and glue them to the bird's head
7. Roll the eye piece around a toothpick to form a small tube
8. Secure the tube with a thin line of glue and then glue it in place

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## **CAMP MOBILE**

This is a great craft for everyone to participate in and then hang them around your camp. Or cabins can do them to decorate the porch or inside of the cabin.

Supplies:

- 2 ft wooden dowel or stick (the stick makes it more nature-y)
- String, fishing line or yarn (it's really your preference on how you want the mobile to look)
- Wooden cutouts (get a bunch of different options so campers can choose what would represent them – i.e. flowers, stars, animals, basic shapes)
- Paint and paint brushes
- Glitter and anything else to decorate the wooden cutouts
- Scissors
- Hot glue

Directions:

(depending on the length of your stick you it may be best to only have 8-12 cutouts hanging from your mobile)

1. Have each camper select a wooden cut out and decorate it
2. Cut a piece of string for each cutout and one more piece to hang the mobile
3. Tie one piece of string to both ends of the wooden dowel/stick
4. Once the wooden cutouts are dried hot glue one piece of string to each wooden cutouts
5. Tie each cutout to the dowel/stick at different lengths
6. Hang and enjoy!

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## **MARSHMALLOW TIE-DYE WAR**

We have a common arts and crafts activity with a really fun twist! The kids have a bucket or big bowl with tie dye paint and a bag of marshmallows. They can wear either a wet shirt or a dry shirt and then with boundaries have a marshmallow 'war'. It is like paint balling but soft squishy pellets instead of paintballs.

The shirts turn out awesome!! Just make sure they aren't wearing good shorts or shoes that they don't want dyed.

Remember to match colors so they blend well - hand prints work great but no slapping each other... the campers LOVED this arts and crafts activity more than we thought they would and asked if they could do it again tomorrow.

You have to find fabric paint which works better than Rit and the color stays on the shirt. You have to tumble dry the shirts before washing

Jacqui  
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## **GHOSTBUSTERS**

We had a ghost busters theme camp last year, so we decided to have the children create their own plasma packs, ghost traps, and pke meters.

### **PLASMA PACKS**

Supplies:

- construction paper
- large cereal box (for main pack)
- smaller cardboard box
- tinfoil
- skipping rope
- cardboard tube
- jumbo popsicle sticks
- CD's
- glitter
- egg cartons
- school glue and hot glue
- scissors

Directions:

1. Have the kids completely cover the two boxes with construction paper
2. Have them glue the small box to the front of the larger box.
3. Have the kids paint a paper towel roll or cardboard tube black and then glue to the side of the large box.
4. Cut a skipping rope (remove the handles) to create the straps for the plasma pack and hot glue them to the top and bottom of the large box.
5. Cut another length of skipping rope (keep the handle on) and have the kids wrap the handle in a piece of black construction paper. Hot glue the other end of the rope to the bottom of the pack.
6. Let the kids embellish their packs however they want, using painted egg cartons for knobs as well as tinfoil, CD's and other misc shiny craft materials, so that each pack is unique.

### **GHOST TRAPS**

Supplies:

- tissue boxes
- construction paper
- egg cartons
- toilet paper rolls
- paint
- glue
- scissors
- jumbo craft sticks

Directions:

1. Have the kids cut 2 flaps in their tissue box by cutting on the sides of the plastic on the top of the box (they can leave the plastic on the box to help glue the top on later) and folding back the sides.
2. Next, have them cover the box (except the flaps) in construction paper.
3. Have them fold down the flaps and cover them with yellow construction paper, and then paint black diagonal lines on it. (Make sure they don't glue their flaps shut).
4. Have them cut a slit in the top of the toilet paper tube (big enough to insert a craft stick) and then paint the hole tube and glue it to the end of the tissue box.
5. Have them paint their craft stick and insert it into the slit in the tube to create a handle for their ghost trap.
6. Let them embellish them any way they want using painted egg cartons for knobs as well as tinfoil, CDs and other miscellaneous shiny craft materials etc...

## **PKE METERS**

### Supplies:

- cardboard
- plastic lint brush
- pencils
- newspaper
- masking tape
- paper towel and paper mache mix
- paint
- paintbrushes.

### Prep Work:

1. Create a stencil for the EMF readers by tracing the lint brush onto cardstock or other stiff paper,
2. then turn it into an EMF reader by adding an arm that curves out on either side of the reader

### Directions:

1. Let the children trace the EMF stencil onto cardboard and then cut it out.
2. Have them pad the stencil on both sides using newspaper and masking tape until it is the size and shape they want.
3. Have them paper mache over the EMF reader with paper towel (using a paintbrush to brush the paper mache mix is so much easier than using their hands) and let them dry.
4. When they are dry have them paint on details like a screen, lights, knobs, etc...

After all their ghost hunting gear was ready, we let them gear up and hunt for ghosts in our haunted cabin. The kids had a blast!

Andria

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## **TIE DYE WITH SHARPIES AND ALCOHOL**

From <http://theartgirljackie-tutorials.blogspot.com/2011/10/tie-dye-t-shirts-with-sharpie-markers.html>

### Supplies:

- Pre-washed white or light colored t-shirt (cotton takes color great)
- Rubbing Alcohol (Note: mine was 91%. If your alcohol has a lower percentage it may not work as well)
- Liquid dropper (we used an old medicine dropper)
- Small plastic cup(s)... really we only needed one
- Rubber bands
- Variety of colored Sharpies (we stuck to color wheel colors, no brown or black)

\*\*\*\* Extra Embellishment: (fabric, scissors, iron on paper, and an iron) - we made a sparkley peace sign to put in the center of the shirt.

### Directions:

1. Choose a spot to start and put your cup in right side up and secure a rubber band around the cup rim holding the shirt tightly in place.
2. Pick your colors and create a small design in the center of the stretched circle. We kept our designs to the size of a quarter or half dollar because the alcohol will make the colors spread out a lot. P.S. remember that complimentary colors will turn brown when they mix (ex. using blue and orange together)
3. Using your dropper drip approximately 10 drops of rubbing alcohol in the center of your design and watch the colors spread.
4. One thing we added: we put a couple more dots and lines of color on the outer edges of the circle and added alcohol drops to them just before removing our rubber band.
5. Then we blew on the area to speed the drying and make the colors mix and bleed together in an irregular circle design.



Note: I had a piece of plexiglass that we put inside the shirt while working to prevent color bleeding through to the back side (cardboard would work too).

I love the instant results of this project!

We made a bunch of designs going up the shirt (looked almost like a funky caterpillar at first) Then we started filling in different areas with more circles and overlapping some of them.

We did not do the back of the shirt and we did leave white areas on purpose. The fun of it is that you can do it any way you want! And it's so easy!

You will definitely want to heat set the colors by tossing the shirt in the dryer for a while before wearing.

Our last step was to create this glitzy peace sign using fabric and no sew iron on paper.

Jennifer

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*Mosse's Notes: I like this activity. Here is where I learned it from - <http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/experiment/sharpienscience>*

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## **PATTERN PAINTING**

One of the crafts I did with my children is sort of a paint by number I have a few counted cross stitched books with pictures instead of using thread we used paints.

I give them a picture that is easy to follow and we use the eraser on a pencil to paint the pictures. The first time we did the painting the erasers were round then I decided to square the eraser by using a exacto knife this looked a little better when painting.

With this craft it teaches the children how to read patterns and it does take patience the picture that we did was of Mario and another one of a cat and elephant all were easy pictures that I found on the internet.

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## **DIRT CUP**

Snack Craft - Makes 1 serving

Supplies:

- 1 cup of Chocolate Pudding
- 1 cup of Vanilla Pudding
- 1 clear 9 oz cup
- 1 can of Whip Cream
- 3 Oreo Cookies Crushed
- 1 Package of M &M's
- 6 Gummy Worms
- Wax Paper or Paper Towels

Directions

1. In your 9 oz clear cup, first layer with crushed Oreo's.
2. Next layer ½ cup of chocolate pudding.
3. Next layer ½ cup of vanilla pudding.
4. Top that with light whip cream.
5. Then add an additional layer chocolate pudding.
6. Crush the remaining Oreo's up and layer them on top the chocolate pudding.
7. Decorate on top of the crushed Oreo's with M&M's and Gummy Worms coming out the cup and on top of the "dirt".

Nichole

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## **LIGHTHOUSE WIND-CHIME**

Supplies:

- toilet paper roll

- blue, white and yellow paint
- string
- seashells

Directions:

1. Paint the roll with blue and white stripes, with a yellow stripe where the light would go.
2. Tie a string to the top to hang it.
3. Tie a few more to the bottom with seashells attached (instructor would probably need to hot glue shells to string ahead of time)
4. Then the kids can hang their wind-chime in a window and listen to it jingle.

Ted  
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## STICKY NOTE CLIPBOARDS



Supplies and Project Estimate:

- chipboard restaurant coasters, free
- medium size binder clips, \$1.50/dozen
- scrapbook paper scraps, on hand
- ribbon scraps, on hand

Total: \$1.50 and up for 12!

Directions:

1. I simply covered a coaster from a restaurant with scrapbook paper and inked the sides.
2. Then add embellishments (ribbon, paper, flowers, and buttons) to a medium gator clip.
3. Just clip the sticky note pad to the coaster and write a sweet note!

The possibilities are endless for this great craft!

I found this idea from this site: <http://dollarstorecrafts.com/2009/09/sticky-note-clipboards/>

Cody  
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## **CREATIVE ARTS GAMES**

I have a few craft ideas that also double as games.

### **BLIND DRAW**

Directions:

1. Children are given a pencil or crayon and a blank sheet of paper.
2. They are then blindfolded and given simple instructions to draw a picture. It could be anything really that fits your theme, but an example would be to
  - Draw a house in the center of the page towards the bottom.
  - Draw a tree to the left of the house.
  - Draw a sun in the upper right hand corner.
  - Add a \_\_\_\_\_ (bird, car, dog, family).

The kids always enjoy seeing the finished “artwork”, and we will give prizes based on accuracy and creativity.

### **ART RELAY**

Directions:

1. Break the kids into groups and hand the first child on each team a crayon.
2. They then have to take turns running across the room where there is paper taped to a wall (or you could use a chalkboard or dry erase board instead).
3. Each person on the team is responsible for drawing one part of the picture, and passing off the crayon to the next person in line when they are finished.

We did this as part of a spring party and had them draw a bunny face. The first person would have to draw the head, the second person the ears, the third person the eyes, then the nose, whiskers, bow tie.....you can add as many “parts” necessary to give every person something to draw.

We have also done this with Jack-o-lantern pictures at a fall festival, and snowmen at a winter festival. Any picture that can be broken into simple parts would work. Kids drawing books are a great resource for ideas!

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

Another art game that we have done is one where you again use a simple picture, but assign numbers from 1-6 to different parts of the picture.

Directions:

1. You can make funny face pictures by having each child start with their own paper with the outline of a head.
2. Offer a variety of things they can use for eyes, noses, mouths, ears, hair, etc.
3. Break them into small groups of 5 or 6 kids each
4. Assign each group a single die.
5. They will have to take turns rolling the die to decide what part they get to glue to their picture. For instance, if they roll a 1 – they would add a single eye to the picture. If they roll a 2 – they

would add a nose. 3 is a mouth, 4 is an ear, 5 is hair, 6 could be used for facial accents or accessories like hats, bows earrings. If they roll a number and do not need that particular part, then their turn is skipped.

This really keeps kids engaged and they enjoy watching each other's creative pictures emerge!

Sandra  
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## **FINGERPRINT ART RESOURCE**

I like to do fingerprint art. There is a great book called "Ed Emberley's Complete FunPRint Drawing Book" The ISBN number is 978-0-316-17448-0.

All you need are fingers with prints and ink pads and various colors. You can make frogs, birds, trains. There are step by step illustrations in the book too.

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Great Tip...

We like to hit up the local Lowe's to get wood crafts that they have left over from their Saturday morning free crafts, cheap and fun to do.

## **AQUA ART**

### **WATER GUN DYED T-SHIRTS**

For water fridays hang up white t-shirts on a clothesline and the kids get water guns filled with cold dye and have at it. Afterwards the shirts are placed into a ziploc with the child's name and sent home with instructions to complete the dye process according to the dye that we have.

### **HANDFISH**

Supplies:

- water color paper
- acrylic paints
- paintbrushes
- markers
- wiggle eyes
- glue
- sand

Directions:

1. Have the kids paint an underwater scene, let dry.
2. Put a handprint on the paper, let dry.

3. Glue a wiggle eye and draw fins on hand print to make a fish.
4. Spread glue across the bottom of page and dust with sand to create an underwater masterpiece that parents will cherish.

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## **ACTION SELF PORTRAITS**

Directions:

1. Take photo of child doing something (dancing, posing w/ particular had gesture, pretending to do something...)
2. Cut out image of child from waist up.
3. Child draws the rest of their body and incorporates the pose into a self portrait project- TONS of fun!!

Lilly  
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## **WORM ART CREATION**

Supplies:

1. 1 live worm per camper (or folks can share a worm)
2. Variety colors of paint (non toxic)
3. Paper plates
4. White construction paper
5. Access to water (to clean the worms)
6. Frames (optional to place their creation in)

Directions:

1. Place one end of the live worm into paint. Please only put one end of worm in the paint. Worms can breathe through both ends which makes this project fun and worm friendly.
2. Place the worm on the white construction paper and watch him move along. As he squirms along, he will create a paint trail design. You may do this with several colors to create a 'collage of colors'
3. Let paint dry and then frame.
4. Please rinse the worm off in water before releasing him into his natural environment.

I have done this project for many years and I assure you that the worms are safe. We have actually found a few worms the next day with a little paint residue...which turns into a worm hunt!

Robin  
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## RECYCLED CD ANIMALS

Recycling CDs we use them for individual projects turning them into animals – fish, turtles, and peacocks

We have cut them into pieces with heavy duty scissors also used them as group projects for creating larger mosaics on used foam core or black illustration board.

To make recycled peacocks or birds...

Supplies:

- two CDs
- feathers
- scrap fabric
- sequins
- glue - use a tacky glue not white glue
- yarn or strong string for hanging ribbon works well too

Directions:

1. Put Glue on dull side of one CD loop ribbon or string and place on glue then place second CD on top - make sure iridescent or shiny side is facing out.
2. Cut felt or fabric shape of peacock body and head together cut beak and crown from contrasting color of fabric.
3. Cut either fabric feathers or arrange actual feathers
4. Glue pieces of body onto front of CD
5. Glue feathers to back of CD
6. Decorate with sequins or extra craft scraps – kids can really get creative
7. Allow to dry for 24 hours before hanging your art project up

I don't have a picture of the peacock but here is one of the group project, that recycles CDs some of the kids used permanent markers on their CDs as well.



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## FAUX FELTED WATER BOTTLE BRACELETS

from favecrafts.com

### Supplies:

- Plastic Water Bottle
- Masking tape (tape width determines width of bracelet)
- Double sided tape
- Felt
- Glue (I used Aleene's No Sew Glue)
- Beads
- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Toothpick



### Directions:

1. To create bracelets, place the masking tape onto the plastic water bottle, evenly and straight with a small space in between each.
2. Using a craft knife, cut each bracelet apart in the open space area.
3. Trim edges to the tape edge. The tape is the guide to the bracelet.
4. Carefully remove the masking tape. Note: the tape can be reused if removed carefully.
5. Place the double sided tape onto the plastic bracelet.
6. Cut pieces of various sizes of two colors of felt. Each piece should be about 1/2" wider than bracelet width size. Pull tape off in a small area at a time. Place each precut piece of felt into the tape area, centering felt with about 1/4" over each edge.
7. Using scissors trim the excess felt on edges of the bracelet.
8. To make the flowers, cut small strips of felt 1/4" wide. The length of this strip will determine the size of the flower. For flowers shown I used approx. 8". Place a small amount of glue on the end, and begin to roll this strip. Add small amounts of glue as you roll. When completely rolled, place glue on the end of the strip of felt to end flower.
9. Using a toothpick, create an indentation in the center of the rolled felt flower. Place small amount of glue into the area and place small bead into the glue. Let glue dry. Glue flower onto prepared bracelet.
10. Repeat to create additional flowers.

To see a visual step-by-step guide visit:

<http://www.favecrafts.com/Green-Crafting/Faux-Felted-Water-Bottle-Bracelets#>

Jessica

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## RECYCLED ART

We get the double-ringed, plastic jar holders from the local food pantry. With those, pipecleaners, feathers, twist ties and plastic bottle caps, the campers create pieces to display for judging.

We've had Bob Marley, flowers, aliens, wheelie-jobbers. The kids really get creative with this craft.

Jennifer  
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## **LEAF LEIS:**

When learning about the different plants and trees in our area, we have campers collect leaves around our property. We then identify and write down what plant or tree they came from and string them into a necklace to wear around.

This is a good one to teach about poison ivy, oak and sumac in order to stay away from them.

Jennifer  
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## **FAMILY FUN FAVORITES**

Here are 2 ideas that were major hits in our camp. I usually get many of my ideas for Disney Family Fun Magazine and Website. These can be found by visiting [disneyfamilyfun.com](http://disneyfamilyfun.com) and entering the titles Dinosaur Stomp or Dye-Ving Dudes on their search bar.

### **DINOSAUR STOMP**

Supplies:

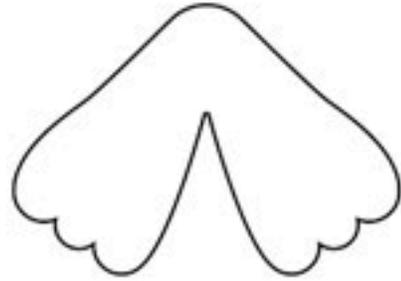
- tissue boxes
- duct tape
- paint
- kitchen sponge
- tacky glue

Directions:

1. You'll need two empty tissue boxes with top openings. Use duct tape to reduce the size of the opening and to reinforce the ankle area, as shown.
2. Cover the exposed duct tape inside the box with more tape.
3. Have your child paint the boxes. Let them dry.
4. Cut six triangular claws from a kitchen sponge (dampening the sponge slightly will make it easier to cut).
5. Adhere the claws to the box with tacky glue. Let it dry before your little T. rex goes for a stomp.



## DYE-VING DUDES



### Supplies:

- Egg dye
- White eggs, hard-boiled
- Permanent marker
- 3/4-inch round white adhesive labels
- 1-inch-wide water-bottle lids
- Small rubber bands
- White glue or glue gun
- Flexible straws
- Self-adhesive foam
- Small clear glasses or bowls (optional)
- Small pitcher (optional)

### Directions:

1. For each snorkeler, dye the bottom third of an egg, then let it dry.
2. Draw eyes on a label and adhere it to a water-bottle lid. Slip the rubber band around the egg, about a quarter of the way down. Glue the lid over a rubber band.
3. Trim a straw 1 inch above and 2 inches below the flexible section. Bend it into a snorkel shape and glue it in place.
4. Cut foam flippers (trace the template above). Glue them to the egg, adhesive side down, and let dry. Stick the adhesive side to the display surface, or, if you like, to the inside of a small glass or bowl. With the pitcher, gently pour in dye until the egg is partly submerged.

Laura  
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## **YUM YUM**

I prefer edible crafts.

## **POND JELLO**

Supplies:

- Blue jello - any flavor
- Swedish fish

Directions:

1. Make jello according to package directions
2. Put in clear container
3. Let set for an hour
4. Add swedish fish and other gummy ocean shapes.
5. Enjoy

## **PRETZEL PEOPLE**

Supplies:

- Rod pretzels
- Large marshmallows
- Canned frosting - white
- chocolate chips
- red licorice

Directions:

1. Use marshmallows as heads
2. Frosting to “glue” on face and hands
3. Licorice to make limbs and smile
4. Enjoy

Leah

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## **STYROFOAM BOATS**

We had our campers make small boats out of a 2 x 6 piece of Styrofoam, straws and paper for the “sail.” They decorated them and then later in the week we raced them in rain gutters filled with water and capped at the end.

The gutters were placed on tables and campers blew them down the gutter. We raced them in heats and then raced the winners of each heat at the end. Super fun – and cheap!

## **CRAFTS”MEN”**

One year for our guys – we called our craft time “craftsmen” and taught them how to build “leave no trace fires.” It’s amazing how many boys these days do not know the skill of building fire. It was a

simple craft but they absolutely loved it!

Kimberly  
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## **LINT MOLDING**

So last year we asked all of our staff members, YMCA professionals, and Board Members, to save their dryer lint. Yep, that's right, dryer link. By the beginning of the summer we had bags and bags full of old dryer lint.

We then take the dryer lint, about 2 cups of it, and mix it with 1/3 cup of warm water, 6 spoons of glue, 1 spoons of dishwashing liquid, and sometimes some food coloring. This turns our dryer lint into a clay like substance for molding and fun.

Our camper use their creativity to mold and model clay at a very inexpensive cost to the camp. Plus, it's always a ton of fun to put dryer lint on your camp wish list!

Cory  
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## **DUCT TAPE FLOWER PEN/PENCIL**

Supplies:

- Duct Tape (of course!),
- Pen/Pencil, Scissors

Directions:

1. Take 1" of Duct Tape
2. Fold from corner to corner but leave some sticky part showing
3. Fold it again from one of the corners to the other corner – forming a triangle
4. Place the triangle on the writing utensil with tip up and the sticky part on the pen
5. Keep attaching the triangles to the writing utensil, but put each petal in a different place so it doesn't match up with another
6. When you are finished placing petals, take a 2" piece of duct tape and put it underneath the petals



There are other neat duct tape crafts at [DuckBrand.com](http://DuckBrand.com).

Abigail  
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## Craft Ideas Extended Day Services

### Valentine's Day Pixy Stix

#### **Materials:**

1. 1 Giant Pixy Stick per child
2. Construction Paper – red, pink, purple &/or white
3. Scissors
4. Glue
5. Markers



#### **Instructions:**

Cut out hearts as shown in picture and glue to each end of the Pixy Stick. Create another heart with a message to glue to the center as shown. Message: "Have a SWEET Valentine's Day!" Children can make as gifts or teachers can give to children as gifts. You can also use small pixie sticks to make a miniature versions of this.

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### Craft Stick People

#### **Materials**

- Jumbo Craft sticks - 1 per child
- Fabric
- Yarn
- Wiggle Eyes
- Markers
- Any other craft materials you may have on hand (buttons, sequins, pipe cleaners, etc.)



#### **Instructions:**

Create craft stick people using the materials listed. Yarn can be cut to make hair and fabric and yarn can be cut to make clothing. Pipe cleaners can be added as arms, hair, accessories, etc.

---

### Potato Heads

#### **Materials**

- 1 Potato per child (wash a day ahead of time and let dry)
- Toothpicks or cardstock for base
- Decorative materials (yarn, wiggle eyes, pom, poms, pipe cleaners, buttons, sequins, fabric, etc.)
- Tacky Glue



#### **Instructions:**

To create a base, place toothpicks in one end of the potato so that it can stand up without falling over or cut a strip of cardstock and tape or staple the ends together to form a base on which the potato can rest (both methods pictured).

Using Tacky Glue, attach decorative items to the potato. Encourage the children to come up with categories beforehand (silliest, ugliest, prettiest, wackiest, most creative use of materials, etc.) Assign each finished potato a number and allow the children to vote for a potato for each category.

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## Create Your Own Pizza

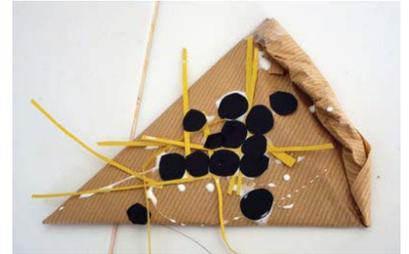
Adapted from projects from [filthwizardry.blogspot.com](http://filthwizardry.blogspot.com) and [familyfun.go.com](http://familyfun.go.com).  
Top Photo from [familyfun.go.com](http://familyfun.go.com). Bottom photo from [filthwizardry.blogspot.com](http://filthwizardry.blogspot.com).

### Materials

- Brown Construction Paper or Brown Paper Bags
- Assorted Colors of Construction Paper
- Scissors (Regular & Decorative Edge)
- Glue

### Instructions:

Using light brown construction paper or brown paper bags, create a crust by making either a circle (for a whole pizza) or a triangle (for a slice of pizza). If making a slice, the wide edge of the triangle can be rolled as shown in the pictures. Then be creative by using different colors to make pizza toppings. Try different techniques such as tearing or crumpling paper or using decorative edge scissors to make “cheese” or “meat.”



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## Yackety Yak Clothespin Puppet

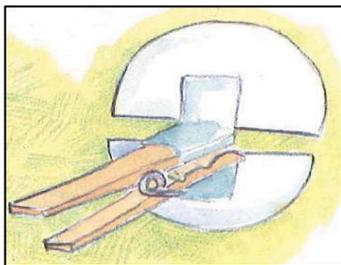
From the book *Clothespin Crafts* by Margaret Holtschlag & Carol Trojanowski.

### Materials

- 1 small paper plate per child
- 1 clothespin per child
- Markers
- Scissors
- Tape

### Instructions:

1. Cut a 3 inch circle from the paper plate by cutting off the border.
2. Fold the circle in half and then open it up and lay it flat.
3. Draw an upper lip on the top fold and a lower lip on the on the bottom fold.
4. Using markers, add eyes, eyebrows, a nose, and hair to the top half and a shirt collar (optional) to the bottom half.
5. Cut the circle on the fold and tape each half to either side of the clothespin.
6. Open and close the clothespin and watch your puppet talk – yackety-yak!
7. Open and close the clothespin and watch your puppet talk – yackety-yak!



## THE FOIL FAMILY

<http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/the-foil-family-666280/>

Unlike your average tin men, these foil characters have plenty of heart. All it takes is a pinch here and there to make them strike any pose your child likes.

Supplies:

- Tinfoil

Directions:

1. Tear a rectangular sheet (about 10 by 15 inches) from a roll of aluminum foil. Then make two cuts down from the top of the sheet and one cut up from the bottom. (For a pet, make two cuts up from the bottom.)
2. Scrunch together the center of the sheet to form a torso. Pinch and mold the upper corners into arms, and the lower corners into legs and feet. Shape the upper midsection into a head and neck. (The lower midsection makes the tail of the pet.)



Janice

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE  
BEST CRAFTS EMAIL ROUNDTABLE.**