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Aluminum Earrings

Materials:

Aluminum cans
Paper punches in different shapes
Scissors
Pin
Earring hardware
Jewelry wire/fishing line
Beads or other decorative elements

Directions: (An adult should be present at all times)

1. Wash out aluminum cans.
2. Cut off the top and bottom with a blade. *Caution: Only an adult should do this step.*
3. Cut aluminum cylinder open along the printed seam by the UPC symbol.
4. Use paper punches or scissors to cut out shapes for earrings. Unless you want variations, cut two sets of each shape.
5. Poke a small hole where you want the shape(s) to dangle with a pin on a cutting mat or piece of cardboard so the pin will go all the way through the aluminum.
6. You can use beads, additional aluminum shapes or other items to decorate earrings.
7. Use jewelry wire or fishing line to string the pieces together.
8. Attach your artwork to the earring hardware and viola, an awesome pair of earrings.



Bike Tube Bracelets

Materials:

Bike inner tube

Snaps and snap setter

Decorative elements (markers, stampers, ink, brads, buttons, ribbon, etc.)

Hole punch

Scissors

Directions:

1. Cut the valve stem off the inner tube, making it one long piece.
2. Cut the inner tube open lengthwise. There are crimp marks on most rubber inner tubes that make a handy guide for cutting a straight line.
3. Wash rubber with dish soap.
4. Measure and cut a piece of clean rubber that is big enough to fit around your wrist as tight or loose as you want it. Make sure to leave an additional inch of overlap for the snaps.
5. After you measure the bracelet you will need to mark where you want the snaps to be set using a marker or chalk. You will punch a hole over the marks for the snaps, so the marks won't be seen. You can use as many snaps as you would like to fit the height of the bracelet.
6. Decorate the bracelet any way that you want! Stamps and gel pens work great. Make sure you give the ink time to dry.
7. Punch holes in the rubber where you marked earlier.
8. Use snap setter to fasten snaps to the rubber. There are four pieces that make up each snap. Make sure the outer parts of the snap are on the outer/decorated side of the rubber. If you have not done this before, make sure you try on the bracelet with the snaps in place before you set them.



Paper Beads

Materials:

Magazines
Gift Wrap
Scissors
Ruler
Waxed Paper

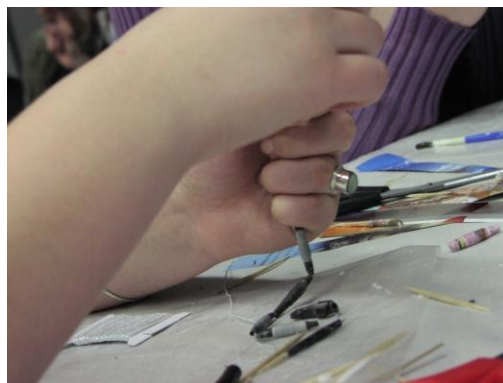
Craft Glue
Paint Brush
Toothpicks/Coffee stirrs
Pencil

Directions:

1. For each bead, cut out a triangular strip of paper that measures about 1 ¼" across the base and 10 ½" from the base to the tip.
2. Lay the strip of paper color-side down on a piece of waxed paper.
3. Coat the surface of the paper with glue using a paint brush (add water to glue if too thick).
4. Stick the base of the strip to the side of a toothpick or a coffee stir (tiny straw).
5. Roll the paper, wrapping the paper repeatedly around the toothpick. Be careful not to roll the paper too tight so the toothpick can be removed later.
6. Coat the color-side of rolled paper with glue.
7. Gently remove the bead from the toothpick/stir and place on waxed paper to dry.
8. Once the glue dries, string the finished beads on leather, yarn, nylon cord or string.

Make the following gifts:

- Necklaces and bracelets
- Turn a tin can into a colorful desk organizer
- Accent a belt, bookmark or key chain
- Jazz up hair combs and barrettes
- Decorate a plastic headband or a dress pin



T-shirt Necklace

Materials:

T-shirt

Scissors

Decorational accessories if desired (wooden beads, thread, scraps, buttons, ribbon, etc.)

Directions:

1. Cut off hem at bottom
2. Cut a long continuous strip (going around and around) the t-shirt
3. Stop cutting at armpits
4. Take long strip and tug firmly section by section so it folds in on itself
5. Make a loop long enough to wrap around your head twice with the t-shirt string
6. Continue looping for desired fullness
7. Use ends (half the loop) to wrap a closure



Disappearing Bird Feeder

Materials:

Stale Bagel
Peanut Butter
Solid vegetable shortening (Crisco)
Bird seed
Yarn
Elmer's Glue
Newspaper

Directions:

1. Tie a piece of yarn around the bagel to hang.
2. Mix about 2/3 peanut butter (creamy or crunchy) with 1/3 vegetable shortening (the vegetable shortening keeps the peanut butter from sticking in the bird's gullet).
3. Roll in bird seed.
4. Tie a piece of yarn on the bagel and hang your feeder outside.

Hummingbird Feeder

Materials:

Clear plastic container
Sugar
Hot water
Beet juice
String
Spot to hang feeder on tree branch

Directions:

Hummingbirds are the smallest of all birds – 3 ½ inches long. They can fly up to fifty miles per hour, they can fly backwards, or hover in mid-air. Their wings beat so quickly, you can't see them move. Hummingbirds hover rather than land when they feed, so their feeders are unlike other bird feeders.

1. To start the project you need a small clear plastic container (we recommend a small margarine tub). You can make the tub a bit more fancy, and a little easier for the hummingbirds to use by cutting three even scallops in the top edge of the tub. This allows the hummingbirds to hover in the “valleys” and get closer to the food.
2. Cut your string into three even pieces. Punch three holes in the center of the top part of the scallops and put one end of the string into the hole and tie a knot to secure it. Do this with all three pieces of the string into each of the three holes.
3. Gather the other end of the strings and tie them together in a knot.
4. Dissolve one part sugar to three parts hot water. Add some beet juice because hummingbirds are attracted to the red coloring.
5. Fill the container half full with the mixture
6. Using the string, hang the feeder from a tree branch. This will help to keep ants from getting into the food.

Ice Wreath

Materials:

Round tray lid
Butter tub
Sand or dirt
Twigs
Cranberries
Water
Twine/ribbon
Spot to hang on a tree

Directions:

1. Find a spot outside where you can work.
2. Take a lid from a catering tray, maybe one from your birthday party or your sister's graduation.
3. Take a butter tub and fill it with sand or dirt to weigh it down.
4. Put the heavy butter tub in the center of the tray lid so when the ice wreath is frozen it will have a hole in the center.
5. Take some twigs and arrange them in the tray lid so they extend out from the rim so the birds will have a place to perch when the wreath is frozen.
6. Sprinkle cranberries evenly around the lid.
7. Fill the tray with water and let it freeze.
8. Tie twine or ribbon around the wreath to hang from a tree. As the ice melts, the birds will eat the berries.



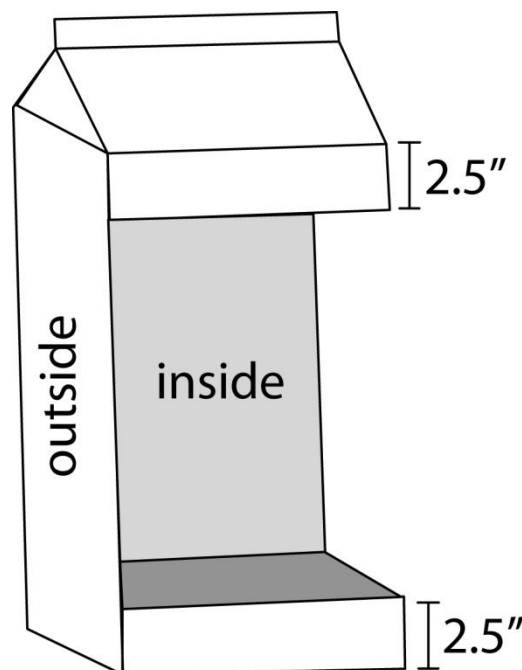
Milk Carton Bird Feeder

Materials:

Half gallon cardboard milk carton
Ruler
Pen or Marker
Scissors
Hole Punch
String or Yarn
Bird seed, Suet or Mealworms

Directions:

1. Wash and dry a half gallon cardboard milk carton.
2. Using a ruler, measure and mark a line 2 ½" up from the bottom of the carton on two adjoining sides. See illustration.
3. Using a ruler, measure and mark a line 2 ½" from the top edges of the carton on two adjoining sides. See illustration.
4. Cut the sides off between the marked lines on the two adjoining sides.
5. Using a small hole punch, make two small holes in the very top edge of the carton.
6. Put the string through the holes.
7. Hang the feeder from a branch or post. Fill it with seeds, suet or mealworms.
8. Watch the birds enjoy the feast!



Pine Cone Bird Feeder

Materials:

Pine Cone
Peanut Butter
Margarine
Yarn or Wire
Bird seed

Directions:

1. Tie or twist the yarn or wire onto the pine cone for the hanger.
2. Mix one part peanut butter to one part margarine
3. Spread the peanut butter and margarine mixture onto the pine cone.
4. Pour some bird seed onto a plate or shallow disk and roll the pine cone in it.
5. Place the seed-covered pine cones in the freezer for about an hour or until set.
6. Hang it outside!

Blender Paper Ornaments

Materials:

Open-ended cookie cutters (variety)

Coffee cans, one for each person (cut out center of lid and keep rim to hold netting)

Scraps of construction paper – lots of colors

Plastic bowls

Blender

Large spoon

Strainer

Fabric netting – 24" x 24" and 12" x 12" pieces

Newspaper

Sink or large vat

Scissors or object to make hole in ornament

Directions:

1. Tear scraps of construction paper into small pieces. Keep colors separate.
2. Put newspaper under blender.
3. Fill a blender half full with water – turn on.
4. Add torn up paper a few pieces at a time into the blender through the hole in the lid to make the slurry.
5. Once the mixture thickens and fibers are broken down, turn off the blender and pour the contents into a strainer with netting.
6. Let most of the water drain out of the slurry until it is an oatmeal-like consistency – moist but not drippy.
7. Make slurry in many colors – place each color in a separate bowl.
8. Take a scoop of slurry and gently press it in a cookie cutter mold that is positioned on netting over a coffee can. Colors can be layered while moist.
9. Carefully remove ornament from netting and place on newspaper. Gently poke a small hole on the top of the ornament with a pointed object – coffee stir, skewer, etc.
10. Allow ornaments to dry overnight before threading with ribbon for tree.

Be creative – dried flowers, berries or sparkles can be added to ornaments while in mold.



Checker Board

Contributed by Laurie Falcone, Environmental Representative
Lincolnwood School District #74

Materials:

Two – 9" x 12" pieces of felt (two different colors – four pieces total. Scraps of fabric can be used instead of felt)

Two small bottles of acrylic paint to match felt colors

One 16" x 16" piece of corrugated cardboard or poster board

Paint brush

Two lids (from spaghetti sauce)

Twenty-four bottle caps from plastic milk jugs (checkers)

Ten caps from salad dressings ("King Me" pieces)

Two plastic containers with lids (from deli)

Scissors

Ruler

Pen/Pencil/Marker

Elmer's Glue

Newspaper

Directions:

1. On the 16" x 16" board, use a ruler to mark a one inch border around the entire surface. Painting the border is optional.
2. Draw a grid inside the border by making eight rows of eight 1 ¾" squares. (See photo)
3. Using a ruler and pen, measure thirty-two 1 ¾" squares on the felt. You will need 32 squares of each color felt. Cut out the squares.
4. Glue the 1 ¾" square pieces onto the grid, alternating colors.
5. Put a little of each color paint into a clean lid. Dip the tops of milk caps (12 of each color) and salad dressing lids (5 of each color). Let dry on newspaper. Store the caps in the deli containers.



Chipboard Note Pads

Materials:

Chipboard

Scrap paper for inside pages

Yarn

Decorative elements (markers, stampers, ink, brads, buttons, ribbon, etc.)

Hole punch

Scissors

Directions:

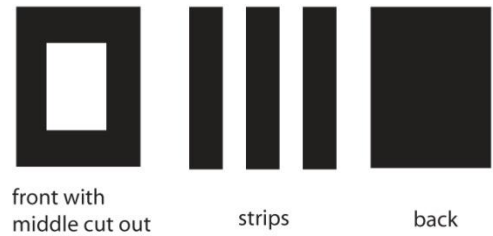
1. Select chipboard pieces for front and back of note pad.
2. Cut chipboard to desired size with blank sides facing in.
3. Punch holes in chipboard on one edge.
4. Cut inside pages to fit inside chipboard pieces.
5. Punch holes on one edge of paper to match location of chipboard holes.
6. Cut pieces of yarn to thread through holes and tie or knot yarn.
7. Decorate front cover of note pad.



Picture Frames

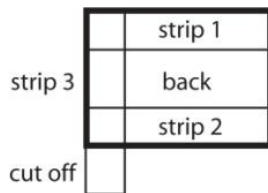
Materials:

Chipboard or cardboard
Glue
Scissors
Decorative elements



Directions:

1. Cut open and lay chipboard flat.
2. Trace the patterns on the light gray box interior.
3. Carefully cut out all the pieces, especially the strips, so that there are three equal strips.
4. Glue a strip to the top and bottom of the frame back.



backside view

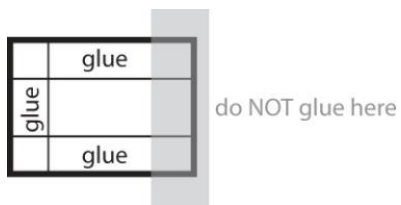
5. Glue the remaining strip on the left side of the frame back and cut off any extra.
6. Set the back aside to dry.
7. Make sure the frame front has the center cut out.

front to decorate



frontside view

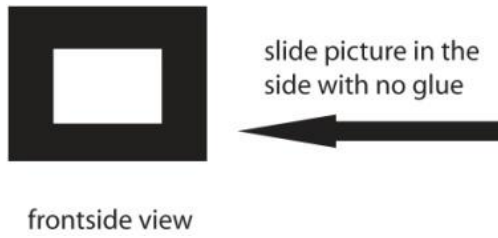
8. Glue decorations around the front frame – overlap so the cardboard doesn't show.
9. Place glue on the back frame strips, being careful not to get glue on the open end, where the picture will slide into the frame.



backside view

10. Place the decorated front frame on the top of the freshly glued strips and press down firmly.

11. Allow everything to dry before placing picture inside of the frame.



Note: Tacky glue, although white, will dry clear. Liquid glue does not work as well.



Crayon Recycling Activity

Materials:

Small Crock Pot (1-quart size or less)

Small plastic ladles

Plastic molds with various shapes

(e.g. the type used for candy making)

Used Crayons

Pot holders or oven mitts for crock pot

Paper towels



Directions:

1. Prepare the crayons by sorting by color (blues in one pile, yellows and oranges in another, etc.) removing any paper from crayons and breaking crayons into small pieces (½ inch).
2. Cover bottom of crock pot with like-colored crayons in an even layer (approximately 1 inch thick). Turn on crock pot (low setting if applicable) and wait approximately 30 minutes for crayons to melt. Periodically check crayons and wait until melted. Wait at least 20 minutes before stirring mixture.
3. After the crayons have completely melted, use the ladles to carefully pour melted crayon mixture into molds.
4. Cool crayons thoroughly (in refrigerator or freezer if available for 10 minutes). Turn molds over to release crayons.
5. Students should turn in completed worksheet in order to receive a “new” crayon.

Helpful Suggestions:

- Caution: Melted crayon mixture can be very hot, so adult supervision is required for crayon activity.
- Do NOT use black/gray/white crayons in a mix with other colors.
- Small lumps of crayon can remain in the mixture, as long as they will fit into the mold.
- It is easier to clean crock pot, ladles with a paper towel while the mixture is still warm.
- Recycled crayons are easiest to remove from molds when cooled in a freezer.
- Work on one color group at a time – as one group melts, another group can be sorted and prepared.
- With additional crock pots, an “assembly line” of different colors and make production more efficient.

