

Recycled Craft Projects

Caterpillar

Supplies:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Scissors
- Paint (or markers)
- Pipe cleaners
- Sharp pencil
- Wiggly eyes (or buttons)
- Glue

Activity

1. Cut along the middle (to have one strip of 6 cups) of the egg carton
2. Paint the egg carton or decorate with the markers
3. Use the sharp pencil to poke two holes into the top of the first cup
4. String the pipe cleaners in through the holes (from the inside)
5. Use the pencil to wrap the ends of the pipe cleaner around it to make it curly
6. Glue on the wiggly eyes (or buttons).

Build a Bottle Bird Feeder

Supplies:

- 2-liter plastic soda bottle with cap or milk jug with cap
- String or yarn
- Scissors
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Permanent markers
- Birdseed, nuts or breadcrumbs

Activity:

1. Rinse the soda bottle, making sure it is clean.
2. Using scissors, cut a rectangle (3-1/2-inches wide by 5-inches long) on the side of the bottle, about 3 inches from the bottom of the bottle. Leave the cap on.
3. Have students decorate the birdfeeder with markers. (Don't use glitter or other items which could harm birds.)
4. Fill the bottom section of the bottle with birdseed. Tie string around the neck of the bottle, under the lip.
5. Hang feeder from a tree branch and watch the birds flock to it. The bird feeder also can be placed on a window ledge. Be sure to keep it filled with birdseed!

Rockin' Recycled Rain Sticks

Supplies:

- Paper towel tubes or other long cardboard tubes
- Aluminum foil

- Small dried beans, un-popped popcorn, dry rice or any small item that will make noise
- Brown paper grocery bags
- Glue
- Fabric scraps, used ribbon, yarn
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers

Activity:

1. Have students trace around the bottom of the tube (the round ends) and then have them draw a larger circle around the traced circle. Have the students draw “spokes” or lines in the space between the two circles. Make sure the spokes are spread out.
2. Cut out the larger circle and then cut along the “spoke” lines. Add glue to the spokes and glue the cap onto the end of your tube. Make sure the entire hole is covered by the paper.
3. Help your students cut (or pre-cut) pieces of aluminum foil that are about one and a half times the length of the tube and about six inches wide. Give each student 2 pieces.
4. Then crunch each piece of foil into a long, thin snake-like shape and coil each long piece like a spring.
5. Add each spring-like piece of foil into the tube. Pour dried beans, rice, pebbles or whatever material you have chosen into the open end of the tube. You should fill the tube about 1/10 full.
6. Make another cap for the open end of the tube (Repeat steps 2 and 3).
7. After the glue has dried, encourage the students to colorfully decorate the outside of their rain stick. Suggest using ribbon or yarn, fabric scraps, or drawing on it with markers and crayons. They can also cut designs out of construction paper scraps as well.
8. After the rain sticks are completed, have your class “play” them by turning them upside down.

Tornado Inside?

Supplies:

- Two 2-liter bottles for each tornado
- A two-inch solid plastic tube (like a garden or aquarium hose)
- Water
- Food coloring and glitter (optional)

Activity:

1. Rinse the bottles completely.
2. Fill one bottle from half to a little over half-full. (At this point, you can add food coloring or glitter.)
3. Insert the two-inch plastic tube on the end of the bottle (where the cap normally goes).

4. Take the second bottle and place it upside down. Insert the other end of the plastic tube. (Make sure that there are no leaks between the bottles).
5. To start the fun, pick up the two bottles, the half-full one on the bottom. Swirl the bottles in an upright position in a clockwise direction, starting slowly and picking up speed. Then quickly turn the empty bottle right-side up and the half-full one upside down. Then just hold the bottle still and watch the water create a tornado funnel.

Make your own paper

Supplies:

- household blender
- 7" x 5" pieces (approximate size) of window screen (two for each group of students)
- water
- sponges (for cleaning – one for each group of students)
- used paper (construction, office, newspaper)
- silver (duct) tape
- role of toilet paper
- bucket or tub (two for each group of students)
- stirring rod or spoon made of wood
- wax paper

Setup

1. Narrowly cover the edges of the window screen with silver tape. This will make your screen for the paper.
2. Tear used paper into pieces approximately 1" square. There should be a good mixture of different kinds of paper, but most should be heavier paper.

Make the Pulp - Caution! Only an adult should complete this portion of the activity!

1. Fill the unplugged blender about halfway full of water.
2. Add a small amount of torn paper, until the blender is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way full of the mixture.
3. Put the top on the blender. Clean up any water that may have spilled.
4. Plug in the blender and pulse until the paper is in small pieces and pulp.
 - ***Stop and unplug the blender if you see any sparks or smoke or if the blender begins to smell unusual.***
 - Stop often to stir the mixture as this can be hard on the motor of the blender. ***Always remember to stop the blender and wait until the blades have stopping moving to open the lid.***
 - Add more water if the blender is working too hard. The pulp should be made to the consistency of runny oatmeal.
5. Stop the blender and unplug it.
6. Pour the pulp and water into the bucket/tub.
7. If necessary, add toilet paper to get smaller fibers.
8. Repeat this section for as much pulp as you need.

Make the Paper

1. To get pulp onto the screen, slide the screen in a horizontal position under the pulp mixture in the tub. Gently lift it in a horizontal position until it is out of the water. There should be pulp evenly distributed across the entire screen. If not, simply push the screen back underneath the water and gently move the screen from side to side as you lift it out of the water.
2. Let the excess water drain through the screen. (At this point, you can sprinkle the pulp with glitter, seeds or add a leaf. This is optional.)
3. Take another screen and lay it on top of the pulp on the screen. Press the two together to squeeze out as much water as possible. Press the top of the screen with a sponge and repeat this until all of the excess water is removed.
4. Lay the screens on a work surface and carefully peel the screen on top off. If the pulp starts to pull off, gently push it back down.
5. Carefully flip the remaining screen over on top of the wax paper so that the pulp side is facing down.
6. Carefully peel off the screen so that the pulp/paper remains on the wax paper. (If the paper does not turn out like you want, simply put the pulp back into the tub and try again!)
7. Let the paper dry naturally or speed up the process with a hair dryer.
8. The paper should be completely dry before you remove it from the wax paper.