

Birthday Crafts

Piñata

Materials:

Newspaper

String

Glue

Balloons

Water

Bowl

Paint

Paintbrushes

Water bottle (optional)

Duct tape roll (optional)

Piñata filling: candy, toys, confetti, etc.



Directions:

Empty a bottle of glue into a mixing bowl. Add water until the mixture is slightly thin. It will not require a lot, so add the water slowly. It should be like pancake mix.

Inflate the balloon. Size is not a factor. If you want a large piñata, inflate the balloon more. For a smaller piñata, do the opposite.

Here is where things get messy. Begin dipping the strips of paper into the paste. Use your fingers to eliminate the excess glue from the strips; too much glue can prevent the strips from sticking.

Begin placing the strips on the balloon. Try to place them as neatly as possible. This will eliminate wrinkles and give your piñata a smoother appearance. It will help to have the balloon elevated. This will make it easier to lay strips on the bottom of the balloon. My method was tying the balloon to a water bottle. Make sure the water bottle is full because the balloon will begin to get heavy, causing the bottle to tip over. Another method is placing the balloon in a duct tape roll. (This step may be skipped if you are not experiencing any trouble.)

Once you have covered the balloon with one layer, allow it to dry completely. You will need to apply three to five layers, allowing each to dry in between.

This next step allows you to add your own style to the piñata. Determine how you want to decorate your piñata and choose your paint colors accordingly. Although most piñatas are colorful, you may create your own unique design. The balloon should still be elevated, so painting should not be difficult.

Once the piñata is decorated how you want, you will need to pop your balloon and remove it. This can be done by making a small hole at the opening. Let the balloon deflate on its own, do not squeeze the piñata because this can cause breakage. Once deflated, remove from piñata. (Additional layers will need to be added if you need a stronger piñata.)

Cut any excess newspaper off from around the opening to clean up the appearance. If you are satisfied with how your opening looks, skip this step.

Next, you will need to make two holes on each side of the opening. This can be done with a hole punch (if your hole is big enough) or by puncturing the piñata with a push pin. The push pin method should be done until a hole large enough to fit your string through is created.

Note: Be careful if using the push pin method. Puncturing the piñata too hard can cause it to dent, ruining the appearance.

Lace your string through the holes and tie them.

The piñata can be filled with whatever you want, candy, confetti, toys, etc. This will depend on your occasion. Be careful to not fill the piñata with something too heavy, because it could cause your piñata to break.

The opening will need to be covered. This is to prevent whatever you filled your piñata with from falling out too soon. This can be done by using tape or gluing paper over the top.

Once the hole is covered, you will be ready to hang your piñata! If the piñata needs to be hung lower, you can tie a longer piece of string to the previously added one.

Birthday Hat

Materials:

Cardstock
Glue or double-sided tape
Hole punch
Elastic string
Paint, markers, stickers, glitter, glue, etc.
Curly ribbons, crepe paper or pompoms



Directions:

For the hat, make a template using a compass. Draw a half circle on cardstock, approximately 8" - 9" in diameter. Cut out the half circle. Decorate the outside of the hat with markers, paint, etc.

To add fun toppers like curly ribbons or crepe paper strips, flip the template over so that the wrong side of the paper is facing up. Tape or glue on a few curly ribbons or thin strips of crepe paper at the top of the template.

Before gluing the edges of the hat together, you will find it helpful, especially if you are using heavy cardstock, to roll the template into a cone shape. Bring the two straight edges together (making a cone shape) and either staple or tape them together.

Punch a pair of opposite holes near the base of the hat. Tie the ends of an elastic string onto the holes to create a chin strap. Adjust the length of the chin strap for a comfortable fit, if necessary.

Try on the hat. Now you're all set for a fun party!

Cupcake Factory

Materials:

Multi-colored
construction paper Glue

Directions:

Cut out multiple pieces of each part of the cupcake in many colors. For each

cupcake you will need a cake bottom and cake top. The number of candles and sprinkles are up to each crafter. The cake bottom is a simple trapezoid shape. The top is an imperfect semi-circle. The candle is a long skinny rectangle. The sprinkles are small pieces in a variety of geometrical shapes.

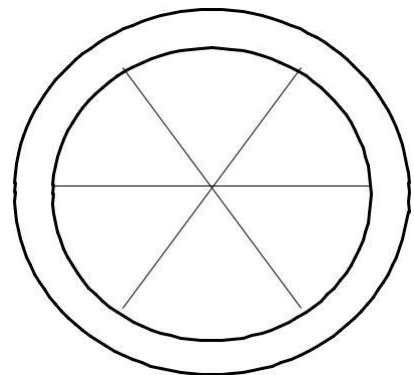
Assemble each type of piece in corresponding piles. Allow crafters to choose different colors and options for each cupcake from the various piles. Glue the cupcake pieces to a larger piece of construction paper.



Paper Plate Crown

Materials:

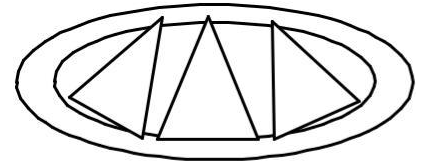
Paper Plate (flimsy, not strong)
Scissors
Crayons, markers, glitter, sparkles, or buttons
Glue



Directions:

Fold the paper plate in half. Cut 5 diagonal lines (making triangles) into the paper plate, evenly spaced. See the dotted lines in the diagram above. Essentially, you cut it like a pizza. Most of the cuts you can do while the paper plate is folded. **Do not cut all the way through.** Cut it up to the ruffle edge of the plate. You will need to open the paper plate to make the final two cuts.

The crown is now prepped and ready for the crafter. The paper plates can be decorated with markers, paint, glitter or buttons.



To make the crown part stand up, the crafters fold up all the triangles.

Sponge Cake

Materials:

New kitchen sponge – thick and yellow
Homemade puffy paint (shaving cream, white glue and food dye) or store-bought puffy paint
Glitter, sequins, pompoms (for cherries, etc.)
Offset spatula for “icing” the cake



Directions:

For homemade puffy paint:

Mix handfuls of shaving cream, about a tablespoon or two of white glue and a few drops of paint or food dye. Add more shaving cream if you want a puffy (more delicate) result, or more glue if you want a firmer, less puffy result. Just be careful not to overmix, as that deflates the paint. It keeps well for a couple of days if covered, but it is best used right away.

Cut the sponges into triangular, cake size pieces. Give a cake slice, frosting and toppings to each crafter and let them decorate their piece of cake.

Birthday Bunting

Materials:

Scrapbook paper triangles
Letters cut out of paper
String
Hole punch
Glue



Directions:

Make and cut your letters and triangles. Glue letters onto triangles. Punch holes in the corners of the triangles. Thread string through the holes. Tape the string down in the back if you used one string for all the triangles (this keeps it from showing). Hang the bunting!

Quick and Easy Sprinkle Oreo Pop DIY

Materials:

Golden Oreos
Pink candy melts
6" lollipop sticks
Rainbow nonpareil sprinkles
½ teaspoon cooking oil



Directions:

Melt candy melts according to package instructions. Add about ½ teaspoon oil to the melts before heating. Melt and stir until you have a smooth consistency.

Take the lollipop stick and dip into melted candy. Insert the dipped lollipop stick into the center of the cookie. Allow to dry for a minute or two.

Next, dip each side of the cookie into the melted candy. Dip the Oreo in sprinkles. Place on parchment paper to dry. Enjoy!

Tissue Paper Flowers

Materials:

Colored tissue paper
Green pipe cleaners



Directions:

Cut your tissue paper into 10" squares: 2 squares pale green and 4 squares spring green. (If you want smaller flowers, cut smaller squares.) Stack tissue paper squares and fold accordion-style, about 1½" folds. Wrap a pipe cleaner around the center of the folded paper and twist to secure. Just make sure your top/interior petal colors are facing up!

Cut edges as desired. For example, to make a chrysanthemum, you can cut rounded edges with 1" slits toward the center. Here are some other ideas:

- To make a dahlia, use 4 squares of hot pink tissue and 2 squares of pink. Make 1½" folds and cut the ends to a point (arrow shaped).
- To make a peony, use 2 squares each of pink and pale pink and 4 squares of white. Make 2" folds and cut rounded ends.
- To make a rose, use 2 squares pale peach and 4 squares peach. Make 1½" folds and cut rounded ends.
- To make a daisy, use 6 squares of white tissue and 2 squares of yellow. Make 1½" folds and cut the ends to a point.

- To make a poppy, use 4 squares deep yellow and 2 squares pale yellow. (For an oriental poppy, use 4 squares red for the petals and 2 squares black for the center.) Make 3" folds and cut rounded ends.

Unfold one side of the flower and carefully separate the layers of paper. Repeat on the other side and fluff the petals to fill in any empty spots.

Display in a vase or wrap a bunch of stems together to make a bouquet. Wrapping the stems around a chopstick makes them sturdier, or just put them in a bottle or bud vase with a narrow neck.

Polka Dot Garland

Materials:

Craft glue
Cardstock paper in multiple colors
Twine, string or thin ribbon

Directions:

Cut out various-sized paper circles. You can also make all the circles the same size if you like. Make circles that range from 1.5"-3.5" diameter in different colors or similar colors.



Line up the circles randomly or in a pattern. Lay out a piece of twine; do not cut it, just roll it off the roll. Apply a very thin bead of craft glue along the center of a paper circle, then lay the twine on the glue. (Does not use too much glue or it may warp the paper a bit)

Continue gluing the twine to the circles, spacing as desired. Allow to dry flat until the glue is fully dry.

Optional- If you will be hanging the garland where it will be viewed from both sides, you may want to put two matching circles back to back, with the twine glued in-between, although it's not necessary.

Confetti Balloons

Materials:

Clear 36" balloon

Tissue paper in various colors or pre-cut

Tissue paper confetti

Ribbon

Directions:

Hold open the mouth of the balloon and add as much confetti as you would like. It works

best if you put the confetti in a bit at a time. This will allow it to have more static and stick to the sides of the balloon.

Fill the balloon with helium, knot and attach to ribbon. Shake balloon as needed to spread the confetti evenly. Tip: If using pre-cut tissue confetti, be sure to touch each piece of confetti before putting into balloon. The static electricity helps it stick better to the balloon.

