

Christmas Tree

Tell pupils that they are going to make their own individual mini Christmas trees, like the one in step 8. Read through the list of materials and make sure pupils understand what they need to bring to class. Give them a week or two to collect the materials. Make a tree with the class. Do one step at a time, reading out the relevant part of the instructions. Get pupils to complete that step before moving on to the next step. Pupils might have other ideas about how they want to decorate their tree. For example, they may want to cut stars out of coloured paper, use cotton wool for snow, or (aluminium) foil to make small, scrunched-up balls. Finally, they could 'plant' their trees in a painted yoghurt container filled with sand or soil. This would make them more stable.

Easter Bunny Basket

Give pupils plenty of time to collect the materials needed and bring them to class. (The milk carton should be rinsed out.) Provide a stapler for the class to use. You may also have to provide the pipe cleaners or straws for them. Read out the instructions, checking that pupils understand them. You can make a basket, step by step, with the class, helping any pupils that are having difficulties. Before pupils cut out the side of the milk carton (step 1), make sure that they know which side to remove. If you haven't got a hole punch (step 2), you can make a hole for the pupils with a sharp pointed instrument like the end of a pair of scissors. Don't let pupils do this, as they might cut themselves.

Kite Flying

Ask pupils if they've ever flown a kite, and if there are any special days in their country when people get together to fly kites. Ask them to tell you something about these days. Then read out the text while pupils follow. Explain any unknown words. Tell pupils that they are going to make a small kite that flies very well. Pupils will need to bring some of the materials from home (a wooden skewer, string, plastic supermarket bags), but the class can begin making the kites with only an A4

sheet of paper, a ruler, a pencil and some felt-tip markers. The kites can be finished in the following lesson, when pupils have the rest of the materials. It is best to do this activity step by step with pupils. In this way, you can make sure that they measure and fold accurately. Remind pupils that the kite will be high in the sky, so their design must be simple and strong. Fine lines and pale colours will be difficult to see from a distance.

If the school is near a park, you could spend 10 minutes flying the finished kites with the class. These kites fly very well, but pupils need to run with them first, to get them high into the air. (They won't rise into the air if they don't run with them.). Once they are up, they will fly beautifully!

Summer Celebrations

Flower Frames/Sun Frames

Read out the text and explain any unknown words. Ask pupils if they have noticed how the days seem longer in the middle of summer and shorter in the middle of winter.

This is a very simple activity and it's fun to do at the end of the school year. You could also use this activity to celebrate May Day (1st May) or get pupils to make the frame as a gift for their mothers on Mother's Day (or their fathers on Father's Day), in which case they could put a photograph of themselves inside the frame.

Flower/Sun Masks

Exactly the same process can be followed to create flower or sun masks. If you decide to create masks, ask pupils to bring to class the largest size paper plate or a big piece of card, and then follow the directions for the Flower Frames. Then, pupils glue an ice cream stick or a ruler onto the back of the flower/sun to use as a handle. Pupils hold the mask up to their faces, which should fit into the framed circle. These masks could also be made at carnival time or for Halloween.