

We hope that all pupils will enjoy these activities and be able to complete them successfully.

Preparation

If you plan to do one of these activities in the next lesson, you could make a list of materials and ask pupils to bring them from home. Alternatively, at the start of the year, ask pupils to collect old magazines, egg cartons, shoe boxes, etc and bring them into class. Then, you will be able to do these activities at short notice, and you won't have to rely on pupils remembering to bring in items on a particular day.

Most of these activities require glue. A glue stick will work, but white PVA-based glue is preferable. You can put this type of glue into small containers for pupils to apply with a brush. (It can be diluted with water, and brushes can be washed with water when pupils have finished.)

The activities have been designed to create very little mess. However, it is a good idea to cover desks with old newspaper before starting any activity.

If possible, arrange pupils' desks in a circle when they are doing arts and crafts activities. This makes it easier for them to see what their classmates are doing and to help each other out.

If you have time, make an object before pupils attempt to do it in class. This gives pupils a better idea of what they are trying to do.

The spider

You could get a box of cheap disposable gloves for pupils to use for this activity. Read out the instructions before pupils begin, and make sure that they understand what they have to do.

In Stage 2, pupils need to leave a line on the can free of cotton wool. Explain where this line should be in relation to the ring pull opening. Point out that the opening needs to be on the bottom so that there is room to glue on the bottle cap eyes.

The cactus

When pupils are sticking the pods together (Stage 2), tell them to use plenty of glue and to hold the pods together firmly for a few minutes to ensure that they stick. If pupils find it difficult to push the toothpicks into the cartons, you can help them by first making holes with a large needle.

The photo box

Pupils can work in pairs, choosing and cutting out pictures from old magazines. Encourage them to decide on a theme for their box. Make sure that pupils glue down the pictures well, and smooth them with their fingers to ensure that they stick firmly to the box.

The fish and the butterfly

Start collecting the lentils, pasta, etc well in advance. Make photocopies of the fish and the butterfly (on the next two pages) for each pupil.

Read out the instructions and explain the meaning of any unknown words (beans, lentils, chickpeas, etc). Before pupils begin, spend a few minutes showing them what to do. Put glue on a small section of the photocopy and glue your selected seeds, pasta, etc in place. Tell pupils that their photocopies are just a guide, and that they can make their own decisions about what to stick where.

An alternative, quick activity is to ask pupils to colour in the photocopies using coloured pencils or felt-tip pens.

The pencil holder

If pupils have difficulty sticking the tubes to the box, cut out some small paper rectangles. Glue half of the rectangle to the box, and the other half to the tube. Using three or four paper rectangles with each tube will make the pencil holders much stronger.

The orange pomander

These make excellent presents, so you might like to make them during the last lesson before Christmas or Mother's day, for example. This activity takes some time, but once pupils know what they are doing, it doesn't require a lot of concentration. Therefore you could encourage class discussions while pupils are working.

