



How to...

Make Halloween treats and crafts

Get ready for some holiday fun with these festive recipes and decorations!

Ghostly bell pepper bites

COLORFUL CUTENESS

Baby bell peppers are about 1.5 inches long and range in color from red to yellow to orange.

Ingredients

- 12 black olives
- 6 baby bell peppers, halved lengthwise and seeded
- ¾ cup hummus
- 12 mozzarella pearls, halved

Instructions

1. Trim the end from half of the black olives and set the slices aside. Use the end of a plastic straw to press into each olive like a cookie cutter to cut 24 circles from the remaining whole and trimmed olives. (Squeeze straw to release any circles that get stuck.)
2. Fill each bell pepper with hummus. Add 2 mozzarella half eyes and black olive pupils to each. Serve immediately. Makes 12 pepper bites.



Recycled ghoul jars



What you'll need

- Clean recycled jars
- Black paint and paintbrush
- Facial tissues
- Scissors
- Toothpick or a black marker
- Needle and white thread
- Tape (any kind)

Instructions

1. Paint the lids of the jars black and allow them to dry.
2. Rip a tissue in half. Wad half into a tight ball. Place ball underneath the center of a new tissue to make a ghost.
3. Hold your ghost by the head and use a toothpick (or a marker) to dot paint on for eyes. Let dry.
4. Thread a needle and tie a knot at the end. Use the threaded needle to pierce up through the bottom of

- the balled-up tissue and through the outer tissue. Cut the thread off the needle, allowing a couple of inches of thread to protrude from the top of the head.
5. Tape the cut end of the thread to the inside of the jar lid so the ghost hangs without touching the bottom. You can add store-bought Halloween creatures, like bats and spiders, to other jars!

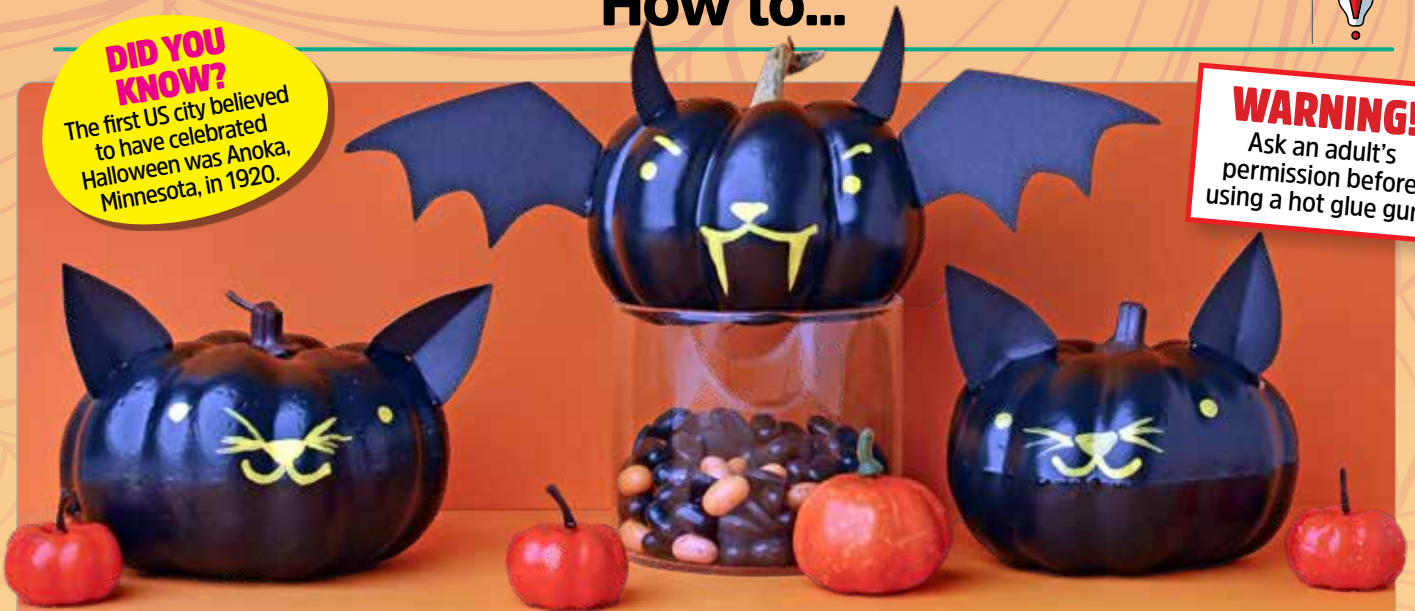
How to...



DID YOU KNOW?

The first US city believed to have celebrated Halloween was Anoka, Minnesota, in 1920.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a hot glue gun.



Paint-your-own cat and bat pumpkins

What you'll need

- Newspaper or any scrap paper
- Artificial pumpkins, any size (from a craft store or online)
- Black acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Light-colored paint pen or paint (like yellow or white)
- Black cardstock
- Scissors
- Hot glue or white glue

Instructions

1. Cover your work surface with newspaper or scrap paper to protect it. Paint your pumpkins black and allow them to dry completely.
2. In the meantime, cut ears for the cats and ears and wings for the bats, leaving an extra $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch of paper along the side where you will glue it to the pumpkin. Fold that $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch back to make a tab (or flap) for gluing. Optional: You can cut a slit in the center of the tab to make it easier to adhere to the rounded shape of the pumpkin.
3. Glue the ears and wings to the pumpkins. Hot glue is the easiest method as it sets quickly. If you use white glue, hold the items in place for a few minutes while the glue dries.
4. Draw features, like eyes and noses, on the pumpkins with a paint pen or paint. Don't forget whiskers for the cats and fangs for the bats!
5. Display your painted pumpkins on a shelf or in a window, or use as a decorative centerpiece on your family's dining table.



Spooky spider doughnuts

Ingredients

- 12 plain doughnuts
- 1 (16-ounce) container white frosting
- Purple food coloring
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chocolate frosting
- 24 brown chocolate pastels

Instructions

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and place a cooling rack on top. Microwave 1 cup of the white frosting on high for 25 seconds in a medium-size, microwave-safe bowl. Add a few drops of food coloring and stir until smooth.
2. Dip the top of each doughnut in the frosting and place on the rack.
3. Microwave the remaining white frosting in a small bowl on high for 15 seconds. Drizzle the frosting over the doughnuts to create webbed tops.
4. Place the chocolate frosting in a piping bag with a writing tip. To make each spider, gently press 2 chocolate pastels on each doughnut and use the piping bag to add legs. Keep cool until ready to serve. Serves 12.