



# How to...

# Create fantastic crafts

These are the projects kids said they most enjoyed making this year.

## PAINTED PAPER BOOKMARK

### What you need

- Kraft paper or newspaper
- Heavy paper, like cardstock or watercolor paper
- Masking tape
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paint scraper, putty knife, or an old credit card
- Scissors
- Hole punch and ribbon (optional)

### Instructions

1. Cover a table with kraft paper or newspaper to protect it. Tape your cardstock or watercolor paper to the kraft paper or newspaper to keep it steady while you paint.
2. Squeeze blobs of paint onto cardstock or watercolor paper.
3. Hold your paint scraper at the top of the paper, with the edge of it resting on the paper. Push scraper over the paint to move it around. You can pull the scraper in straight or curvy lines, squiggles, circles, or an arc, like a rainbow.
4. After your design dries, you can add more blobs of paint if you wish. Continue scraping paint around to layer shapes, or criss-cross stripes for a plaid pattern.
5. After your artwork is dry, cut it in strips to make bookmarks. You can punch a hole at the center top of each bookmark to add a ribbon. Cut a 9-inch piece of ribbon and fold it in half. Push folded end through the hole. Feed the two cut ends through the resulting loop and pull them to tighten. Trim the ribbon ends at an angle.



## PENCIL CUPS MADE FROM RECYCLED CANS

### What you need

- Recycled cans, cleaned out
- Scrap corrugated cardboard, such as from a shipping box
- Scissors
- Glue (ideally hot glue for a stronger bond, or white glue)
- Primer to create brighter colors (optional)
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic craft paint

### Instructions

1. To make an animal head, cut a thin semi-circle from the cardboard. To cut the corrugated cardboard and make it easier to bend, cut the pieces so the lines inside the cardboard go up and down, not side to side. Cut as many heads as the number of cans you have.
2. With an adult's supervision, glue the heads onto the top of the cans. Allow the glue to set or dry.
3. Cut out cardboard ears, snouts, and arms. Glue the shapes to the cans and allow the glue to set or dry.
4. Paint the animals. Start with a main color, let it dry, and then add details like spots, eyes, and noses.



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
A single pencil can be used to write up to 45,000 words.

# How to...



## FELT NAME BANNER

### What you need

- Ruler, pencil, and paper
- Sharp scissors
- Felt
- Letter printouts
- Tape
- Paintbrush
- Fabric glue or tacky white glue
- String
- Big-eye needle or hole punch

### Instructions

1. Use the ruler, pencil, and paper to make a template (pattern) for your felt flags. It can be a flag in the shape of a swallowtail (shown above) or a triangle, rectangle, or other shape of your choice. To make a symmetrical shape, fold the paper in half. Draw half of the shape with its center along the fold. Cut it out.
2. Trace your flag template onto the felt, then cut out the shape. Repeat this step to make as many flags as there are letters in your name (or the name of the person you're making it for).
3. Print out the letters in a simple sans serif typeface (such as Arial) in a size that will fit nicely on your flags. Cut out each letter, leaving some extra white space around it. Tape each letter to a piece of felt in any color you would like your letters to be.
4. With the scissors and an adult's help, carefully trim out each letter, cutting through the paper and felt at the same time. It's helpful to have at least two parts of the letter taped to the felt while you cut so it doesn't shift around. You can add tape as you go. For letters with a space in the center, like the letter O, carefully poke a hole in the letter with one blade of the scissors, then cut your way around.
5. With the paintbrush, paint a thin layer of glue onto the back of a letter and center it onto the flag. Repeat this step with the rest of your letters and flags.
6. Determine the length of your banner. Lay your flags on the table, evenly spaced apart. Measure this length and add a few feet to both ends to allow for hanging the banner. Cut a piece of string to this length.
7. Punch or poke a hole in the top corners of each flag, then string the flags together. Hang it up with an adult's help.



## SUPER-CREATIVE SNEAKERS



### What you need

- Canvas sneakers
- Pencil
- White eraser
- Water-based acrylic paint pens, like Posca
- (Note: Permanent markers might bleed.)
- Optional: tissue paper or newspaper

**FUN FACT**  
Sneakers got their name in the 1880s from their quiet rubber soles, which allowed wearers to "sneak" up on others.

### Instructions

1. For this project you will be decorating a pair of sneakers. Ask a parent for permission first.
2. Decide on a design. You can choose a theme (like music, food, or dogs, as shown) or draw a mix of things.
3. Pick a palette. You could use all the colors in the rainbow or stick to a simple black-and-white scheme. You could also choose a limited palette of two or three colors. Black and yellow were used for the dog sneaker shown at left, for example.
4. If you want a firm surface for drawing, stuff sneakers with tissue paper or newspaper.
5. Optional: You can lightly sketch a design in pencil first. Use a white eraser to make corrections. Wipe off the eraser dust completely before you paint.
6. Use the paint pens to make doodles. To keep the colors clean and bright, start with lighter colors and let them dry.
7. Layer on the darker colors, such as black outlines, last. Allow them to dry, and enjoy!