

Cheap & Easy

Crafts for Kids



9 Recycled Crafts

Cheap and Easy Crafts for Kids: 9 Recycled Crafts

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Letter from the Editor

Hello Thrifty Families,

One of the many great things about kids is their imaginations. While an adult walks in the woods and sees sticks, a child is wandering through a magic forest full of wands, swords, and javelins. Poke the branch through a leaf and suddenly the forest transforms into a Fourth of July parade, and he's waving his flag proudly.

Remember when you were a child and a cardboard box was anything but a simple cardboard box? You'd fly through space, climb a mountain, and sumo wrestle all with the same, plain "trash." Well, one adult's trash is another child's treasure.

Use those tiny, wild, and creative minds to your advantage by making crafts from items around the house to save some money and have a blast. Recycled crafts are great ways to have affordable fun, and children love seeing one item transform into another. Included in this eBook are nine amazingly diverse, but similarly inexpensive and adorable crafts that kids can make from your recycling bin: a snowglobe from an old jar, daisies from toilet tubes, a monster from an egg carton, and more. When have you ever looked at an empty egg carton and thought it resembled a monster? Ask the same question to your kids, and they'll joyfully share everything else that it resembles too.

Explain and embrace the importance of recycling as you craft with your resident energizer bunnies, and notice how little it matters to them what the materials are. As long as the end result is a Rocket Blaster Jet Pack, things are sitting pretty.

Enjoy these great kids' arts and crafts projects that'll help you craft green and save green.

You can find more craft projects, recipes, and activity ideas at www.AllFreeKidsCrafts.com.

Our eBooks, like all our kids' craft projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our kids' crafts community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Go green, and happy crafting!

The Editors of AllFreeKidsCrafts

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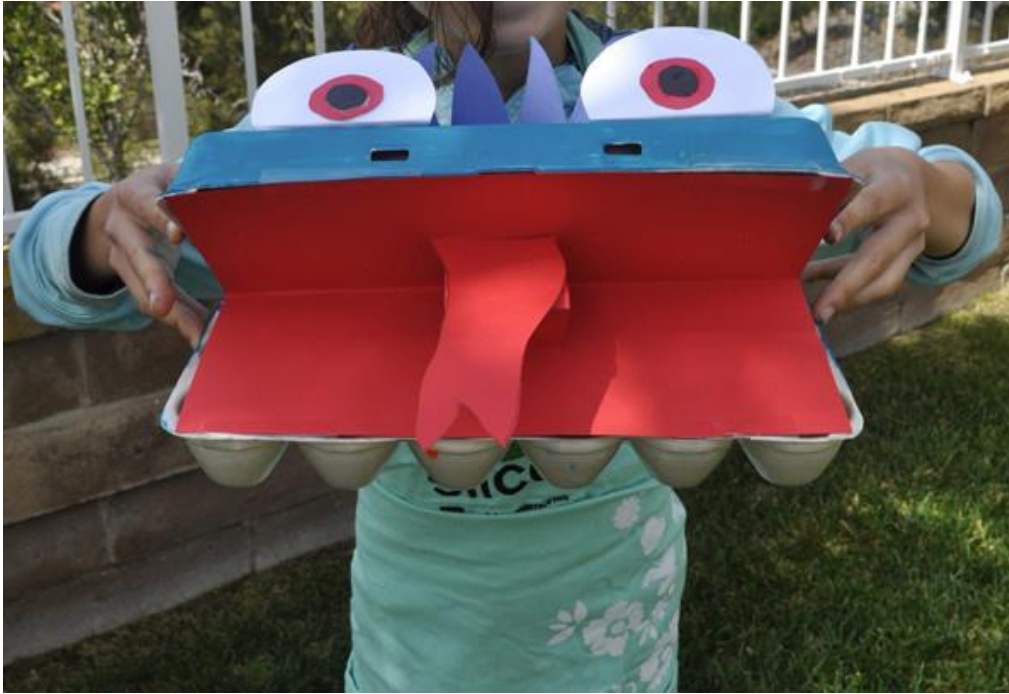
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Egg Carton Monster Man

By: [Pauline from Club Chica Circle](#)

Instead of eggs, hatch a monster from an egg carton. While eggs are full of yolks, this guy is full of jokes, and he'll "crack" you up. Kids can easily craft an [Egg Carton Monster Man](#), and they can make their thrifty ghoul as scary or as friendly as they see fit.



Materials:

- Empty egg carton
- Blue paint
- 2 pieces of red construction paper
- 1 piece of white construction paper
- 1 piece of blue construction paper
- 1 piece of black construction paper
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- White glue

Instructions:

1.) Paint the whole egg carton blue.



2.) While the carton is drying, cut out two large white circles for the eyes, two medium-sized red circles for the irises, and two small black circles for the pupils. Bend the large white circles about 2/3 down to create a good gluing surface for the eyes.



3.) Cut out a jagged strip of scales from the blue construction paper, and glue the scales and eyes on top of the carton.



4.) Fold the 8 1/2" x 11" piece of red construction paper in half lengthwise. In the center, cut two slits and bend that part the opposite way of the rest of the paper. This makes a cool pop-up platform to glue a tongue.



5.) Cut out a wavy, snake-like tongue and glue that on the pop-up part of the mouth.



6.) Attach the mouth to the edges of the egg carton with tape.



7.) You're done!

Toilet Tube Big Bird and Friends

By: [Amanda Formaro for AllFreeKidsCrafts](#)

Take a journey high up into the sky or down low onto Sesame Street to find the perfect bird for your little one to craft. These toilet paper roll crafts allow for lots of creativity, because kids can create any kind of feathered friend they want. If your tot loves Sesame Street, thy can craft Big Bird and his colorful friends! No matter what kind of [toilet tube bird](#) your child chooses to make, they'll be proud to show off these little critters.



Materials:

- Cardboard tubes
- Pink, yellow, and green construction paper
- Feathers
- White craft glue
- 2 googly eyes for each bird

Instructions:

- 1.) Cover cardboard tubes with pink and yellow construction paper.
- 2.) Cut small triangles from the orange construction paper for the beaks. Glue to the cardboard tube.

3.) Glue two googly eyes at the top of the beak.



4.) Poke a hole in both sides of the cardboard tube. (Note: this step should be done by an adult). Add a dab of glue to the hole, and insert feather.



5.) Add some glue to the inside of the cardboard tube above the eyes. Add a small feather to the glue.



6.) Allow the glue to dry, and your project is complete.

Delightful Recycled Daisies

By: [Kara Maxwell from Pam's Party Planning and Practical Tips](#)

Who knew you could turn cardboard tubes into lovely, cheerful flowers? These [Delightful Recycled Daisies](#) are fun to make, and they're guaranteed to put a smile on anyone's face. Kids can make these beautiful blossoms to celebrate Earth Day, or they can simply use them to adorn the windowsill. Make these flowers once with your crafty kiddos, and they'll be saving all your toilet paper rolls just so they can make more!



Materials:

- Toilet paper rolls (one for each flower)
- One tube for leaves
- Paint
- Bamboo skewers
- Tissue paper

Instructions:

1.) Paint the tubes in your desired colors. If making leaves, paint one of the tubes green.



2.) Both the inside and the outside of the tubes need to be painted. It's easier to paint the inside after cutting it. Paint the skewers green. These will be the stems.

3.) Mark off the center inch of the tube. Cut slits up to the mark off point on both sides of the tube. There should be about 1 inch of tube left uncut.



4.) To make the leaves, flatten the green tube and cut it into strips.



5.) Once all the flowers are dry, stuff the centers of the flowers with different colors of tissue paper.



6.) Using a push pin, make a small hole.



7.) Insert the pointed end of the skewer into the hole. You might use a little bit of glue to keep it in place.

8.) If you would like to add leaves, glue them to the painted bamboo sticks.

Converted Cardboard Christmas Village

By: [Amanda Formaro for AllFreeKidsCrafts](#)

Bring Whoville into your home this Christmas with a [Converted Cardboard Christmas Village](#). Convert trash into town treasure with this toilet paper roll craft, and use it as a bright decoration or as a city for your child's toys. Your children will be filled with Christmas cheer as they customize their very own wintry world; plus, they'll have a blast working with you to create something cute for the holidays.



Materials:

- 3 cardboard toilet paper tubes
- White paper
- Construction paper in various colors
- Black fine point marker
- 1 toothpick
- Glue stick
- Hot glue gun
- White craft glue
- Glitter in various colors, including white

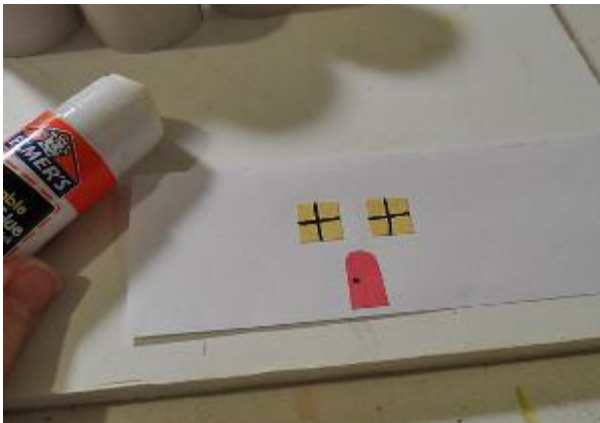
Instructions:

1.) Cut your three cardboard tubes into two pieces each. Cut one roll evenly in half. Cut the other two so that you have two large pieces and two small pieces. This will give you varied heights for the buildings.



2.) Cut white paper into 6-inch long pieces. The height should be about an inch taller than each tube.

3.) Cut out doors from colored construction paper, and add a door knob using marker. Cut out small squares for windows from yellow construction paper. Use marker to draw window lines. Use glue stick to attach windows and doors to the white paper strips.

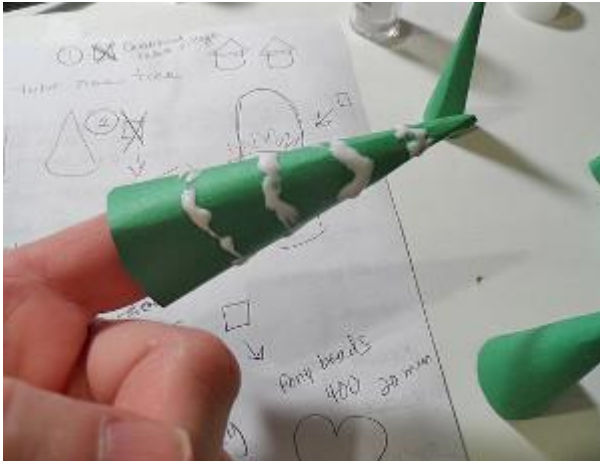


4.) Cover the back of the white paper with your glue stick and attach it to the cardboard tube. Fold the excess paper inside the tube and secure.



5.) Use colored construction paper to make simple cone shapes for roofs and hot glue them in place.

6.) Make trees from green construction paper. Use a small paintbrush to apply glue on a few lines going around the trees. Sprinkle the trees with glitter and knock off any excess.



7.) Use a small paintbrush to paint glue along the edge of each building's roof and sprinkle with white glitter. Knock off excess.

8.) For the church, cut the ends off of a toothpick to make them blunt. Cut toothpick in two pieces, one longer than the other. Hot glue the toothpick into a cross, and glue the long end inside the top of the church roof. When dry, paint the cross with white glue and sprinkle with gold glitter, tap off excess.

Glitter Bugs

By: [Amanda Formaro for AllFreeKidsCrafts](#)

When you think of bugs, you might be alarmed by their bodies and legs, but these precious [Glitter Bugs](#) are far too cute to be creepy! For the most fashionable bugs around, all you have to do is convert trash into treasure and make shimmering spiders. Instead of wondering what to make with old jar lids, simply save them for craft time with your kids; they'll love turning lids into these adorable little critters. Make a bunch in every color for even more crafty fun!



Materials:

- Recycled jar lids
- White acrylic craft paint
- Glitter paint
- Googly eyes
- Glittery pipe cleaners
- Hot glue gun

Instructions:

- 1.) Paint the lids with two coats of white paint, allowing the paint to dry between coats.
- 2.) Paint each lid with a generous amount of glitter paint.

3.) While paint is still wet, position two googly eyes on each lid. Allow paint to dry completely.



4.) Cut pipe cleaners into thirds. Turn lids over and hot glue pipe cleaners to the inside of the lid for the legs. You can bend them so that the legs are straight out to the sides or erect.



Glittery Snowglobes

By: [Natasha from Amelie's House](#)

Make your own snowglobes for any occasion with these [Glittery Snowglobes](#). Repurpose an old jar and recycle an unused plastic toy with this quick, easy, and affordable boredom buster. Recycled kids' crafts like this are the perfect way to teach grownups and kids how to make a snow globe out of items you already own. This project is also a fun and unique way to preserve your child's memories of playtime.



Materials:

- Plastic toy
- Empty jar with lid
- Sequins and glitter
- Superglue

Instructions:

1.) Use superglue to glue the toy onto the lid. Leave it to dry for 24 hrs.



2.) Sprinkle some glitter and sequins into the jar. Fill it to the top with water.



3.) Run a ring of glue on the inside of the lid and screw it back on. Leave the right way up for another 24 hrs to harden.



Aff-arr-dable Pirate Garb

By: [Candace Lindemann from Naturally Educational](#)

To be a good pirate, you've got to dress like one, and that means wearing traditional pirate garb. Don't go running out to the store. Kids can make their own [Aff-arr-dable Pirate Garb](#) right at home. This pirate hat and eyepatch combo can be made for free, so you don't need to steal anyone's treasure. Before you know it, your little pirates will turn rainy days into adventures on the high seas. X marks the spot!



Materials:

- Newspaper
- Markers
- Craft jewels
- Pirate clipart
- Black paper
- Hole punch
- Black Yarn

Instructions:

1.) Fold a length of newspaper in half.



2.) Put the fold at the top and the open flaps at the bottom. Fold the top corners in to meet at the center.



3.) Fold up the bottom flap on one side and then the other. Tape or staple them in place.



4.) Decorate your hat with markers, jewels, and cut-out pirate clip art.

5.) Cut out the shape of an eye patch in black paper, punch a hole in the top inner corner and the bottom outer corner, and thread through black yarn.



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Rocket Blaster Jet Pack

By: [Kelly from Sewing in No-Man's Land](#)

Blast off! This [Rocket Blaster Jet Pack](#) is a stellar idea for recycled kids' crafts and homemade toys for the aspiring astronomer or astronaut. Add this to a cool space costume, hand them out as party favors, or read along with Ender's Game as the kids fly high and reach for the stars!



Materials:

- Two large water bottles
- Mirror Board or reflective wrapping paper
- Long strips of yellow tissue paper
- Medium strips of red Tissue paper
- Short strips of orange tissue paper
- Gaffer tape
- Elastic
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sponge brush

Instructions:

1.) Position your water bottle on the reflective paper. Cut the paper so it is a little wider than the bottle and plenty long.



2.) Paint glue all around the bottle except for the slanted part leading up to the mouth of the bottle.



3.) Roll the paper up around the bottle, and stop once the bottle is wrapped. Use something to hold down the extra paper.



4.) Paint the extra reflective paper with glue and finish rolling up your bottle. Make sure the flap is nice and secure.



5.) Cut a long strip of gaffer tape and lay it on the table sticky side up. Take your long strips of yellow crepe paper or tissue paper and stick strips one by one onto the tape. Be sure to place strips about an inch from the top of the tape so you can stick the tape onto the bottle. Repeat this step with red and orange paper. Stop the paper about an inch from the end so that it can seal upon itself on the end.



7.) Wrap the gaffer tape around the mouth of the bottle by rolling it. Make sure not to catch the tape on your reflective paper.



8.) Repeat steps 1 through 8 on your second water bottle.



9.) Once you have completed both bottles, stick them together and reinforce the jet pack with extra tape.

10.) Cut two longer lengths of thin elastic. Tape them securely to the bottle.



Playful Polar Bear Masks

By: [Rachel from I Heart Crafty Things](#)

Have a roarin' good time with [Playful Polar Bear Masks](#). These are a very entertaining activity for kids to make, and they're super thrifty, too. The masks can be constructed from items you already own, so you won't have to take a trip to the store to gather supplies. While your little ones make their masks, they can learn about where polar bears live and what they eat, which turns this recycled craft into a fun educational opportunity.



Materials:

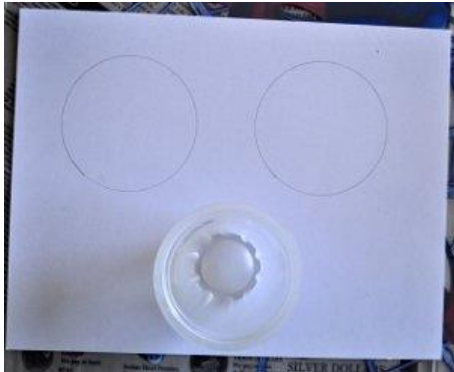
- Paper Plate
- Circle cut out or craft knife
- Empty fruit cup
- White paint
- Glue/ Glue gun
- White tissue paper
- Black permanent marker
- Large black pom pom
- Yarn
- Hole punch

Instructions:

1.) Trace a small circle for the eyes and then use a craft knife to cut them out. Or use a circle punch for the eyes.



2.) Use an empty Dole fruit cup to trace ears onto white card stock. Cut out the circles and cut them in half.



3.) Paint the clear fruit cup white, and let it dry completely.



4.) While the snout is drying, use a paint brush to cover a section of your paper plate with glue. Crumple squares of tissue paper over the glue. Do this on every part of the paper plate until it is covered, leaving an uncovered section for the snout.



5.) Glue the ears to the back of the paper plate.



6.) Draw a bear mouth on the bottom of the cup with a black permanent marker.



7.) Use the glue gun to run glue around the inside rim of the painted fruit cup and glue it down onto the polar bear's face. Also glue the black pom pom nose to the cup with the glue gun.



8.) Punch holes onto the sides of the paper plate and tie a knot on each end with a piece of string or yarn.



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Thanks to everyone included in this eBook:

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Natasha from [Amelie's House](#)

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Amanda Formaro from [Crafts by Amanda](#)

Rachel Nipper from [I Heart Crafty Things](#)

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