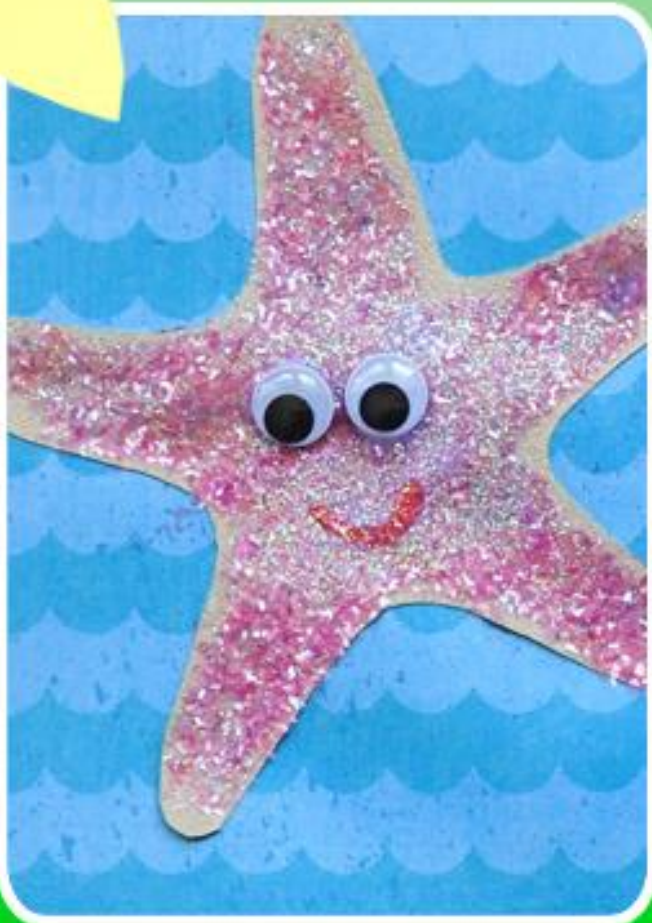


14 Easy

# Summer Craft

## Activities for Kids



## 14 Easy Summer Craft Activities for Kids

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## Letter from the Editor

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Hello Crafty Families,

The sun is shining, the flowers are blooming, and school is out. Whether your kiddos are going to day camp or not, chances are you'll have a lot more time with them, which in theory is a marvelous thing. In actuality, though, you may quickly run out of ideas to keep them busy and then you'll have a full summer ahead of you with nothing to do and hyper, bored children.

AllFreeKidsCrafts will not let that nightmare become reality. We've gathered the absolute best craft activities to make your summer the most fun one yet, and it won't just be fun for the kids. You, too, will look back on this summer with a broad smile and a sense of accomplishment. Bond with your children over crafts that make you laugh, smile, and look on with pride.

Supplement your trips to the beach, adventures at the waterpark, and visits to museums with summer craft activities that the whole family can make together. Young or old, boy or girl, all kids will love making these hand-picked projects that scream summer.

Some of these wonderful crafts bring you outside into the gorgeous sun and others bring the sun to you. No matter which of these crafts you decide to make, your summer is sure to be bright, vibrant, and creative.

You can find more craft projects, games, and activity ideas at [www.AllFreeKidsCrafts.com](http://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](#).

Happy crafting!

*Jaclyn, Editor of AllFreeKidsCrafts*

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## Everlasting Sandcastles

By: [Jodi from Meaningful Mama](#)

With the joy of summer comes the long, sandy days at the beach. Building a sandcastle is a favorite activity among little ones, but it's such a bummer when you have to leave it at the end of the day or, even worse, when the tide washes it away. Everlasting Sandcastles are fun beach crafts that you can take home and keep for good. Make sand art like this wonderful fortress and you'll be the king of an everlasting sandcastle.



### Materials:

- 2 cups sand (you can use beach sand or craft-store sand)
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 2 tsp alum (sold in the spice section of the grocery store)
- 1 ½ cups water
- Shells and rocks

### Instructions:



- 1.) Pour the sand, cornstarch, and alum into a saucepan.



2.) Stir together your ingredients with a wooden spoon and then add water.



3.) Stir again until the mixture is smooth and the cornstarch is dissolved. Cook the clay over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally. It should start to thicken within a few minutes. Stir more vigorously, making sure to scrape the mixture from the sides and bottom of the pan.



4.) After a few minutes, the clay will have thickened to a dough-like material that can be molded and sculpted to your liking. Please allow for it to cool to the touch before you begin sculpting. For best results, use the clay within a day or two of mixing it.



5) It will take a week for the sandcastle to fully dry.



## Indoor Camping Expedition

By: [Kerry from Country Living on a Hill](#)

Get lost in the woods without ever leaving home! Try this Indoor Camping Expedition as part of your summer activities for kids. Kids and adults alike don't have to wait for fair weather or summer camp to enjoy the campfire when you can make one yourself, complete with homemade play food!



### **Materials:**

- Small wooden crate
- A ring- I used a grapevine wreath that I found at the dollar store
- Several empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls
- Brown craft paper
- Tape
- Red and yellow tissue paper
- Tan and brown felt
- Cotton balls
- Glue

### **Instructions:**

1.) Set down your fire ring. Take the empty rolls and cover with brown construction paper so they resemble logs.

2.) Place the “logs” into the fire ring in a criss-cross pattern.

3.) Take a sheet of red tissue paper and a sheet of yellow tissue paper. Stack them together. Find the middle of the sheets and pinch. Fan up the side of the tissue paper and place the pinched end into the middle of the logs, moving them about until they look like fire.

- 4.) To make fake s'mores: Cut out two squares of the tan colored felt, approximately 1 ½" x 1 ½".
- 5.) Cut one square in the dark brown felt just a little bit larger than the tan felt. Place one of the tan squares on a flat surface, add a dab of white glue, and add the dark brown felt piece on top.
- 6.) Add another drop of glue onto the dark brown felt and add a cotton ball on top.
- 7.) Lastly, add some glue to the top of the cotton ball and top it all off with the last piece of tan felt.



- 8.) Now that you have a campfire and delicious treats, sing campfire songs, perform skits, and make real s'mores in the microwave!

## Beachy Plate Sand Dollars

By: [Amanda Formaro for AllFreeKidsCrafts](#)

Bring home sand dollars from the beach without removing the real species from its environment. You can make Beachy Plate Sand Dollars that look a lot like the real thing with an awesome tutorial for easy craft ideas for kids. Summer crafts for kids are fun ways to spend long summer days when the weather is dreary or you need a break from the heat of the sun. This summer craft for kids is a cool way to explore ocean life. Beach themed crafts are a blast to make during the summer or when you're wishing that it were summer. Paper plate crafts for kids are inexpensive ways to entertain yourself for a few hours.

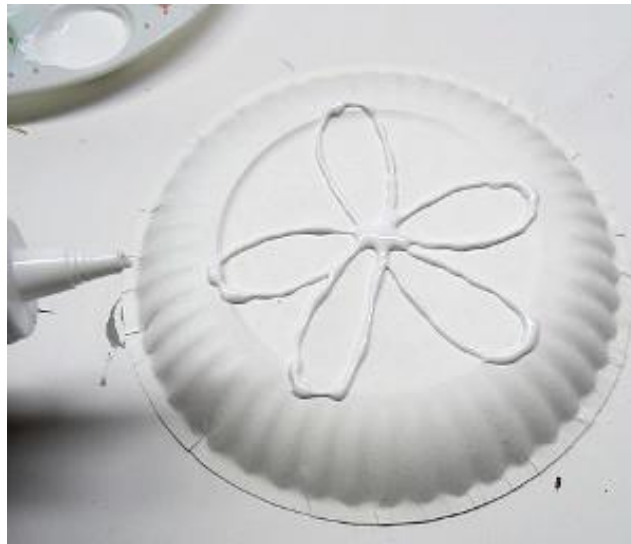
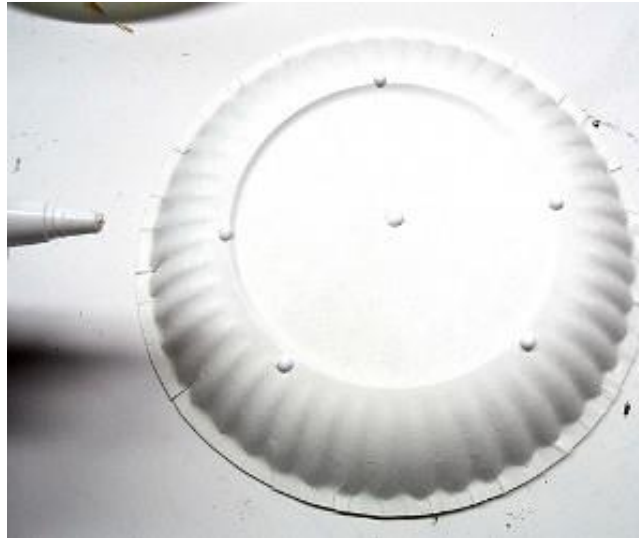


### **Materials:**

- Miniature paper plate
- White craft glue
- Dried white beans
- Sand

### **Instructions:**

1.) Put a dot of white craft glue in the center of the plate then place dots where you want the tips of each star arm to go. Draw your star with white glue.



2.) Place dried beans along the glue lines. Let this dry completely, so the beans don't fall off when dipping the plate in sand.



3.) Use your finger or a paintbrush to smear glue around the edge of the plate and dip it in sand. Let the sand dollars dry completely.



*Love this project? Click the photos below to find more summer crafts from Amanda Formaro:*



## [Campfire Cupcakes](#)

By: [Gina Vide from Willowday](#)

Campfire Cupcakes look so realistic! These stunning edible kids crafts are fun for cub scouts and camping enthusiasts, and kid chefs will have a blast making the flames on the cupcake. Make these tasty edible crafts for kids for birthdays and parties.



### **Materials:**

- [Chocolate cupcakes](#)
- [Chocolate buttercream frosting](#)
- Brown baking paper
- Red, yellow, and orange hard candy
- Plastic bag
- Baking sheet
- Chocolate fingers, Kit Kats, any long brown candy

### **Instructions:**

- 1.) To make criss-crosses of baking paper as cupcake tins, just cut strips of baking paper. Cross these and attach them in the middle with a little bit of butter. Add a bit in the middle of the cross and press this criss-cross into a cupcake tin and fill with chocolate cupcake batter.



2.) Once the cupcakes have cooled, frost them with the chocolate buttercream frosting.

3.) Crush yellow, orange, and red hard candies in a plastic bag.



4.) Once crushed, spread the dust out on baking paper/parchment paper on a baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes at 350. Watch to make sure this melts but doesn't brown. Once melted, remove from oven and cool.



5.) Once cooled, snap pieces into small flames.

6.) Cut Chocolate Fingers in half and cut off the ends. Arrange this as logs around the middle -- use arrangements of 3 or 5. Once logs are arranged, press flames between the logs with the largest flames in the center until the cupcake resembles a camp fire.





## Easy Edible Sand Castle Krispie

By: [Beth from Hungry Happenings](#)

Instead of letting your carefully built sand castle get washed away by ocean water, wash it down with a cold glass of milk. The Easy Edible Sand Castle Krispie Treat is an awesome alternative to playing in the sand. If the weather isn't as nice as you had hoped it might be or you don't feel like being covered in salt water, make edible crafts for kids that are even more fun than a day at the beach. Beach theme crafts are perfect for summer parties or long sunny days. This summer craft for kids is extremely easy to construct even though it looks complicated. Just use your normal sand castle molds and you're all set for a delicious and fun time.



### **Materials:**

- 19 cups (18 oz box) crisp rice cereal
- 2 sticks butter (8 oz)
- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 1 3/4 cups light corn syrup
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- Medium saucepan with lid
- Heatproof spatula or wooden spoon (it is best to butter it)
- Plastic wrap
- Sand castle molds, washed and dried

### **Instructions:**

- 1.) Pour crisp rice cereal in very large heatproof bowl.
- 2.) Cut butter into small pieces. Place butter, brown sugar, and corn syrup in a medium saucepan. Heat on medium, stirring as needed, until butter melts and mixture begins to bubble around the edges. Place

lid on pan for one minute. Remove lid and allow to boil for two more minutes, without stirring.



3.) Remove from heat and add sweetened condensed milk; Stir to combine. Return to medium heat and allow to boil for three minutes. Remove and immediately pour over crisp rice cereal. Don't scrape the bottom of the pan.



- 4.) Use a heatproof spatula or wooden spoon to stir the cereal until it is well coated with the caramel. This mixture will be extremely hot, so be careful not to touch it. Allow mixture to cool, stirring it frequently, until you can easily touch it. Just don't let it cool too much or it will get too hard and won't be easy to press into the molds.



5.) Line your molds with plastic wrap. Then spoon some of the cereal treat mixture into your plastic mold. Press down firmly making sure the caramelized cereal fills all the crevices. Fill each mold to the top and press down using your spatula or spoon to really compress the cereal in the mold.

**Note:** Using larger molds ensures that the details will be big enough to show up. Four inch molds proved to be too small.





6.) To un-mold the cereal treats, just turn the mold upside down and shake. The molded piece should fall right out. If it doesn't, pull the sides of the plastic wrap and shake gently and it should fall out.



## Mini Button Campfire and Tree

By: [Laura Kelly from Laura Kelly Designs](#)

The summertime is so much fun because of all the outdoor activities in which you can participate. Nothing is better than a campfire, though, even if it is just in your backyard. Let your dolls experience the joy of a campfire by making them a recycled button tree along with a mini campfire. If you're not into dolls, make this toilet paper roll craft as a decoration in your own home. Button craft ideas are always adorable, so throw this cute craft anywhere and bring in the sunshine.



### **Materials:**

- Recycled cardboard
- Glue
- Scraps of green felt, paper, and foam
- Hot glue gun
- Green, brown, orange, and yellow buttons
- Googly eyes
- Sticks
- Orange, yellow, black, and white felt
- Orange ribbon

### **Instructions:**

- 1.) To make the tree: Use recycled cardboard to make a tree trunk. I took the base of a 24-pack of water bottles and “rolled” it to make a trunk, using hot glue to hold it together.



2.) Then, cut up toilet paper rolls and hot glue them to make branches.



3.) Cut out leaves from felt, scrapbook paper leftovers and foam then glue them to the branches.



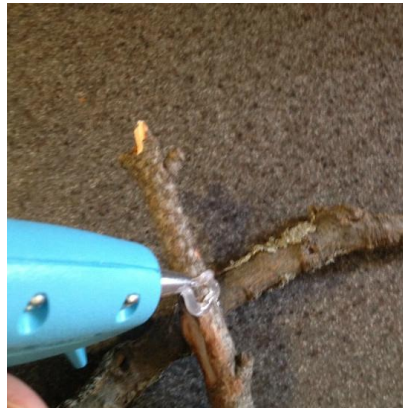


4.) Add an owl hole using black felt and googly eyes.



5.) To make the campfire: Assemble three sticks approximately 5-6 inches long each in a bonfire arrangement and hot glue them together.





6.) Add felt flames in orange and yellow followed by buttons and ribbon in the same colors. Using similar colors will help to make it look real.





7.) For extra fun, make a s'more out of white felt for the marshmallow and brown buttons for chocolate.



## Paper Plate Fruity Fun

By: [Amanda Formaro for AllFreeKidsCrafts](#)

With the sunshine of summer comes the juicy and delicious goodness of fresh fruit. Sweet fruit is just as pleasing to the taste buds as it is to the eyes. This summer, make it so that both your eyes and your tongue are satisfied. When you make Paper Plate Fruity Fun, your eyes can feast on the beauty of kids' paper plate crafts while your tummy enjoys the real thing. When you make these summer crafts for kids, you won't feel guilty devouring your fruit for fear that you won't ever see the bright colors the healthy fare offers. Your easy crafts for kids to make will take care of those bright colors and keep them in sight always.



### Materials:

- 5 miniature paper plates
- Craft paint: red, orange, green, olive green, yellow, white
- Construction paper: yellow, orange, green, pink, white
- Markers: brown, yellow, orange
- Scissors
- Glue stick

### Instructions:

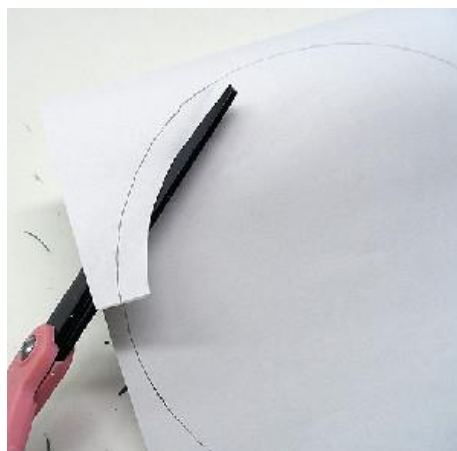
1.) Paint the paper plates, one each: red, orange, olive green, green and yellow. You may need to add a second coat. Allow to dry. For the kiwi plate (olive green), mix a little olive green with white to lighten it up and paint the center of the olive green plate.



- 2.) Using one of the paper plates as a template, draw a circle onto each piece of construction paper. Follow the directions for each piece of fruit below:

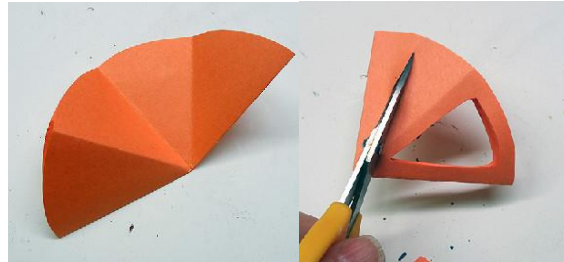


- 3.) Apple- Cut the circle from the white paper, trimming off about 1/2-inch all the way around. Use glue stick to attach the white circle to the red paper plate. Cut the paper plate in half and use the brown marker to draw seeds.



- 4.) Orange- Cut the circle from the orange paper, trimming off about 1/2-inch all the way around. Fold

the orange circle in half, then in half again and finally in half again. Unfold once. use scissors to cut out the center sections of each triangle, cut through several layers of paper at once. Unfold and attach the circle (which should look like a wagon wheel) to the orange plate using a glue stick. Use an orange marker to draw a few seeds in the center.



5.) Lemon- Repeat the steps as with the orange above using yellow paper and a yellow marker.

6.) Kiwi- Cut the circle from the green paper, trimming off about 1/2-inch all the way around. Fold the green circle in half and cut an oval from the center at the fold. Unfold and draw seeds on the green paper around the center hole using a brown marker. Attach to the olive green plate using a glue stick.



7.) Watermelon- Cut the circle from the pink paper, trimming away enough paper to only cover the center of the green plate. Attach to the center of the green plate using a glue stick then cut the plate in half. Draw seeds using a brown marker.

## Toilet Tube Sand Castle Craft

By: [Karen from Crafts for All Seasons](#)

At the beach you spend hours perfecting a castle made of sand, and then the ocean washes it away or it's time to leave and you can't take your creation with you. On the other hand, when you make a Sand Castle Craft, you can keep it forever. This summer craft for kids doesn't cost any more than a normal sandcastle because you use recycled toilet paper rolls to make it. When you make this craft, summer can hang around all year long.



### **Materials:**

- Metal jar lids
- 2 empty paper towel tubes or 4 toilet paper tubes
- Scissors
- Paper plate
- Play sand
- White glue
- Paint brush
- Colored construction paper or card stock
- Wooden craft stick (popsicle stick)
- Paints or markers

### **Instructions:**

- 1.) Begin the sandcastle craft by cutting the paper towel tubes into four different lengths, as shown. The size of each length is not important, and it makes each sandcastle look unique.



2.) Pour some play sand on to the paper plate, covering the entire bottom of the plate.



3.) Using a paint brush, paint on a thick coat of white glue all over the paper towel tube. Or, if you are having a lot of children do this craft, you could pour the glue on to a plastic plate and have the children roll their tubes in glue.



4.) Next, roll each paper towel tube in the sand on the plate, to cover the tube. Shake off the excess and allow each tube to dry thoroughly.



5.) Add more sand to the paper plate if necessary, and add a dollop of glue to the sand, as shown.



6.) Use a spoon and stir the glue into the sand to create a wet, sludgy sand. Stand the sand covered tubes on the paper plate, arranging them with the tallest in the back, and the shortest near the front. Push the glue-sand mix all around the tubes. This helps support them to stand. Spread the rest of the sand-glue mixture all over the plate. Allow everything to dry.

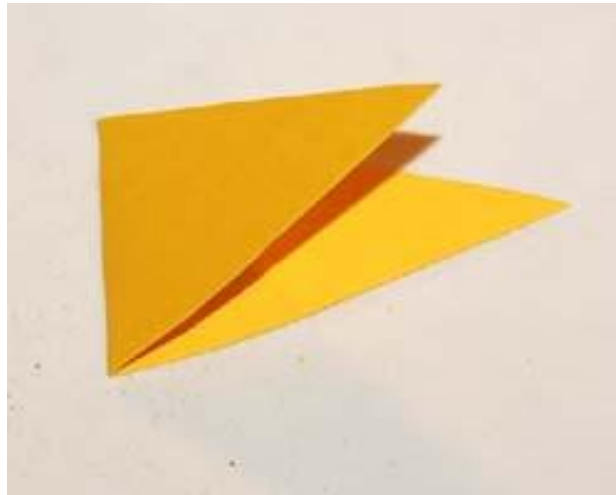


7.) To make a flag, color or paint the wooden craft stick.





8.) Fold a small piece of colored construction paper or card stock in half, and cut out a triangle flag shape as shown. This can be personalized with the child's name.



9.) Glue the wooden craft stick inside the folded triangle shape, and glue the flag to the inside of one of the tubes.



## Summer Memories CD Case Frame

By: [Sofia Herrera from Meyamo](#)

Preserve your favorite summer vacation pictures with the Summer Memories CD Case Frame. Printable craft ideas like this are a great way to keep the kids occupied in those restless days before they go back to school. They'll be so excited to show their classmates what they did all summer, as well as what they created!



### Materials:

- [Frame template](#)
- Scissors
- Empty CD case
- Cardstock
- Paper, markers, crayons to decorate
- Favorite summer photo

### Instructions:

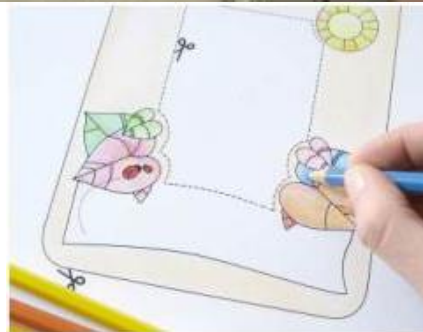
1.) Print your favorite template on white or colored paper (cardstock works best).

\*You can print on regular paper and then glue or trace onto cardstock to make the frame more rigid.





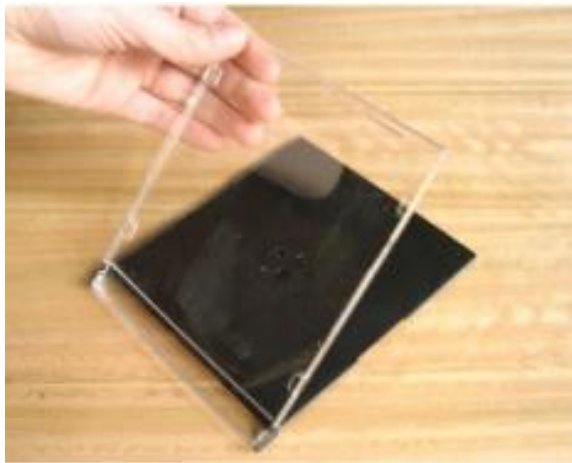
2.) Have fun decorating the templates with phrases and colors that remind you of your summer adventures.



3.) Cut on the dotted line of the template to leave a hole in the center and create the frame for the photo.



4.) Take the CD case and flip it inside out.



5.) Place the photo on the inside of the clear cover of the CD case. You can also glue or tape it directly to the case. \*Trim any extra as necessary so that the photo fits in the cover of the case.





6.) Slide the decorated frame over the photo using the clips on the CD case to hold it in place. Then fold the top border of the frame over the top of the CD case to keep the frame from sliding.



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## Sandy the Starfish

By: [Jillian Dubien from Meet the Dubiens](#)

Get the fun texture of sand without all the mess by making Sandy the Starfish Beach Craft out of sandpaper. This summer craft for kids is a nice ode to the beach in all of its glory. If you can't make it to the shore, bring the shore to you with this beach craft. You will have a blast decorating with glitter and noticing how different materials interact with the rough sandpaper. Even awesome crafts like this can be educational.



### **Materials:**

- Sandpaper
- Regular paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Glitter
- Googly eyes
- Glitter glue (if desired)

**Instructions:**

- 1.) Cut some starfish shapes out of your sandpaper.
- 2.) Glue your starfish on some regular paper - we used pretty scrapbook paper that looks like water.
- 3.) Cover the front of your starfish in glue
- 4.) Sprinkle your starfish with all kinds of glitter
- 5.) Once your starfish have been sufficiently glittered up, shake off the excess over the sink or a garbage.
- 6.) Glue on some googly eyes and put on a glitter glue smile.
- 7.) Allow to dry.





## Sunny Sunflower Marshmallow Pops

By: [Meaghan from the Decorated Cookie](#)

Deliciousness is blooming right in your kitchen. Fortunately for you, there are too many Sunny Sunflower Marshmallow Pops growing, so you're going to have to eat some to keep them under control. Spring crafts for kids are bright and beautiful, and these cool crafts for kids take the awesomeness one step further because they're edible. Flower craft ideas can brighten up anyone's day in just moments, so take these yummy crafts for kids out and about to share them with friends and family.



### **Materials:**

- Marshmallows
- Lollipop sticks
- Bowl of water
- Paper towels
- Chocolate jimmies (sprinkles)
- Styrofoam block
- Green food coloring
- Wax paper
- Paint brush
- Yellow cardstock
- Scissors
- 1/8-inch hole punch

**Instructions:**

\*Find the lollipop sticks, jimmies, Styrofoam, food coloring, paint brush, card stock and hole punch in the craft store. The hole punch is smaller than a regular hole punch. This size is slightly smaller than a lollipop stick, so the petals stay on the stick without falling, but you may also use a needle to poke a hole if you prefer.

1.) Have ready a bowl of water, a paper towel, the jimmies and an empty bowl or plate. Skewer a marshmallow with a lollipop stick, quickly dip the marshmallow into the water, trying to get as little of the stick wet as possible, dab the marshmallow on a paper towel to remove excess water, hold the marshmallow over the empty bowl and sprinkle the jimmies generously over the marshmallow to coat. Prop the marshmallow in a Styrofoam block.

2.) Mix a few drops of green food coloring with a couple drops of water, using a piece of wax paper as a palette. Paint the lollipop sticks and rest them on a piece of wax paper to dry.

3.) Cut out petal shapes from yellow cardstock (make one petal as a template). Punch a hole at one end of the petal. Slide a lollipop stick through the hole of a petal and push up to the marshmallow. Repeat so you have 8 petals on each flower.



## Lick 'n Lather Popsicle Soap

By: [Kerry from Country Living on a Hill](#)

As the perfect summer craft for kids, make Lick 'n Lather Popsicle Soap and you'll feel like you're living in paradise. Create your own soap to make bath time fun and scent-tacular or to make summer days lather-ific. Making your own soap is not only easy, but it is also a blast with Popsicle sticks and a few simple ingredients. These Popsicles won't drip and make a mess. In fact, they'll keep you squeaky clean.



### Materials:

- Wooden picture frame
- Popsicle mold
- Glass bowl or measuring cup
- Spoon for mixing soap
- Sharp knife for cutting soap
- Glycerin melt and pour soap (found in most craft stores or buy a block of scent free/dye free glycerin soap at your local grocery store)
- Candy flavoring or soap coloring and scent
- Coconut oil
- Popsicle sticks (small ones)
- Microwave, paper towel

### Instructions:

\*\*You may want to do a test just to make sure that the candy coloring doesn't stain you or your tub.



1.) Wipe the inside of your Popsicle mold with a little bit of coconut oil- this will help when you are ready to take your soap out.

2.) Cut your soap into small cubes and put in a microwave safe bowl or glass measuring cup.



- 3.) Microwave your soap for 15-20 seconds on high. Stir. If necessary, microwave for another 5-10 seconds if it needs to melt some more.



- 4.) Add a few drops of your candy flavoring OR some soap coloring and scent. How much? Well that depends on how strong of a scent you want.



- 5.) Take your spoon and mix in up-- not too vigorously because you don't want bubbles.



- 6.) Now carefully pour mixture into your greased Popsicle mold. Then stick in your Popsicle stick. You might have to let it cool slightly before the stick will sit upright in the soap but usually within a couple minutes, it is cool enough to hold up the stick. So don't walk away for too long or else the soap will harden too much to get the stick in!



7.) Allow the soap to cool for about an hour before pulling it out. You might want to take a small sharp knife and go around the edges. Occasionally the stick will pull out but once you get the soap out, you can stick the stick right back in and it should stay.

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## Summer Lanterns

By: [Jill Dubien from Meet the Dubiens](#)

Let it glow, let it glow, let it glow! Summer Lanterns are the perfect way to be joyful in the summertime. Summer craft ideas for kids are usually full of bright, sunshiney glee, and this one is no different. These lanterns are really cool crafts for kids because they look awesome, but they're easy enough that toddlers can make them. Easy craft ideas for kids are perfect for families with large age gaps because everyone will enjoy them.



### **Materials:**

- Tissue paper - Cut into 1" squares
- Glass vases - cheap at the dollar store
- Glue
- Bowl
- Paint brush
- Tea lights

### **Instructions:**

- 1.) If you haven't already done so, cut your tissue paper into 1 inch squares. Put the different colored tissue paper in different bowls so the kids can easily see which color they are grabbing.



- 2.) Pour some glue in a bowl so that you can easily dip a paint brush in it.
- 3.) Dip your paint brush in the glue and spread some on the outside of the glass vase - nothing goes on the inside so they remain fire-safe!
- 4.) Stick the tissue paper squares on the outside of the vase where you have put some glue. Repeat this process until the entire vase is covered with tissue paper squares.



- 5.) Allow the vase to dry completely.
- 6.) Once the vase is dry, give it another coat of just glue. This will help "seal" it and secure any loose pieces. Allow to dry completely again.





7.) Put some tea lights in your lanterns and light them at dusk. They really are beautiful!

*Love this project? Click the photos below to find more summer crafts from Jill Dubien:*



## Woodland Watercolors

By: [Kellie from Eclectic Chica](#)

Woodland Watercolors transform woodchips into natural canvases upon which children can create dazzling works of art. Nature crafts like these also make fantastic camp crafts for kids that will become treasured keepsakes.



### Materials:

- Wood rounds from tree, woodchips
- Watercolor paint
- Paint brush

### Instructions:

- 1.) Find woodchips or other smooth wood surface. These rounds came from a cherry tree after limbing.
- 2.) There are no rules for this wonderful summer craft, so find a smooth wood surface, and paint!





## Special Thanks

### 14 Easy Summer Craft Activities for Kids



Thank you to everyone included in this eBook:



Jodi from [Meaningful Mama](#)



Kerry from [Country Living on a Hill](#)



Gina from [Willowday](#)



Beth from [Hungry Happenings](#)



Karen from [Crafts for All Seasons](#)

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Laura Kelly from [Laura Kelly Designs](#)



Sofia from [Meyamo](#)

Meet the Dubiens

Jill Dubien from [Meet the Dubiens](#)

*Hungry Happenings*

Beth from [Hungry Happenings](#)



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Amanda Formaro from [Crafts by Amanda](#)

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Sunny Sunflower Marshmallow Pops

Everlasting Sandcastles

Sandy the Starfish



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