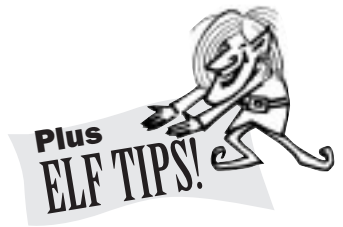




Oh Martha!

Make It By Christmas



From Leader Files

It's early November, and you know what that means. It's beginning to look a lot like...craft time. If you're a leader searching for imaginative crafts for your kids, you are probably thumbing through back issues of *Leader* (or maybe even *Martha!*) trying to find something easy to make with instructions you can understand, with simple ingredients that do not involve a full set of power tools or a hot-glue gun.

Look no further. Cubs and third-year Beavers will have a ball making these easy, nature-oriented and even edible gifts and decorations – and parents will enjoy receiving their home-made treasures.

TRIM UP THE TREE WITH NATURE'S DECORATIONS

Apple and Orange Garlands

A lovely, natural way to spruce up your spruce!

Materials:

- Apples and oranges – about four or five for each child

- cup water
- Lemon juice (use two lemons)
- 2 tsp. salt
- Nylon thread or dental floss

What to do:

Slice the apples about 1/4 inch thick, and soak them for at least 30 minutes in a mixture of lemon juice, salt and 1 cup of water. Remove slices and spread on parchment paper on a cookie sheet and bake two to three hours in a 200 degree (Fahrenheit) oven.

Thinly slice oranges, lay them on paper towels and microwave on high for one minute. Flip and repeat a few times. Bake (following apple directions) in oven.

When fruit is good and dry, it's time to string them into garlands using floss. You can add ribbon, raffia, or baby's breath for a beautiful, imaginative garland.

If you are a leader, consider preparing the fruit ahead of time, and bringing it to the meeting for the kids to assemble. You might even poke holes in the fruit in advance (to make it easier to string).



ELF TIP

You can always make garlands using popped popcorn or fresh or dried cranberries (try alternating for effect).

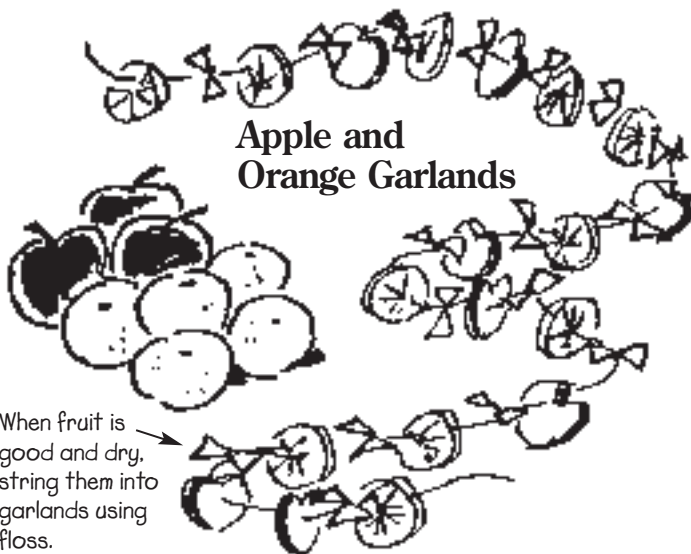
Snowman Necklace

Materials:

- White Glue (Elmer's will do)
- Paper clip
- Waxed paper
- Construction paper scraps (black and orange)
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Tiny buttons
- Tiny twigs
- String or yarn

What to do:

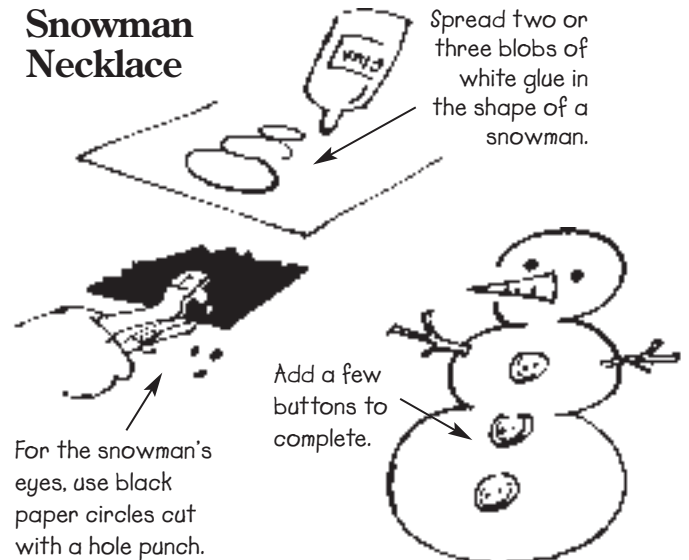
Working on waxed paper, spread two or three blobs of white glue in the shape of a snowman. Unfold a paper clip into a V-shape (to use as a hanger). Cut a tiny hat from black construction paper and put it on the snowman on top of the paper clip hanger. Put the ends of the paper clip into the glue at the top of the snowman. For the snowman's eyes, use black paper circles cut with a hole punch, or use googly eyes. Put the eyes on the snowman. Add a tiny orange carrot-shaped nose. Add a few paper buttons (or real ones) down the front of the body. Let the glue dry (this will take a few days). When it dries, it will become transparent. When completely dry, peel



Apple and Orange Garlands

When fruit is good and dry, string them into garlands using floss.

Snowman Necklace



Spread two or three blobs of white glue in the shape of a snowman.

For the snowman's eyes, use black paper circles cut with a hole punch.

Add a few buttons to complete.

gently from the waxed paper. String snowman on some yarn for a cool necklace.

ELF TIP

You could also hang one from the tree as an ornament!



Christmas View-Master

Younger children will love to make their own Christmas view-master.

Materials:

- Shoe box
- Scissors
- Tissue paper
- White or navy construction paper
- Fluffy fibrefill
- Silver sparkles
- Old Christmas cards with winter scenes
- Christmas wrap

What to do:

Cut a large rectangle in the lid of the shoebox. On the inside, tape a piece of white tissue paper (this allows light to filter through). On another side of the box, cut another shape (allows you to peer through the box). Glue the fibrefill to the bottom of the box (the snow). Cut out winter scenes from old Christmas cards and position inside the shoe box. Wrap the outside of the box with Christmas paper.

ELF TIP

Collect a variety of winter scenes and have a "slide show"!



Crunchy Munchy Snowflakes

Ingredients:

- Large or small flour tortillas
- Scissors
- Powdered Sugar

What to do:

Fold tortilla into quarters. Cut pieces out to make snowflake designs (practice on paper first!).

Have an adult fry up the tortilla till it's quite crispy.

Remove from heat, and sprinkle with powdered sugar (snow). Ready to munch!

ELF TIP

Make snowflakes together as a Christmas group project (works great at a year-end Christmas party).



Shooting Star

Materials:

- Small piece of felt or thick paper
- Shiny Christmas wrap or foil
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Paper reinforcements
- Glitter
- Markers
- Glue

What to do:

Cut a spiralling circle from the paper or felt. Decorate with glitter or markers (you could use puff-paint markers, too).

Cut a small star out of shiny paper. Cut a tiny hole in the top for hanging (glue on reinforcements around the hole). Glue the star to the spiral "tail".

ELF TIP

You could even glue your picture on the star, as a gift to Mom and Dad.



Mexican Tin Cut-Outs

Just like traditional Mexican ornaments...make these from aluminum pie plates or cookie sheets!

Materials:

- Disposable aluminum pie plate or cookie sheet
- Marker
- Scissors
- Large nail
- String or yarn

- Cardboard or newspaper scraps

What to do:

Draw a simple design on the pie plate or cookie sheet (a star or moon, etc.), and then cut it out. Place cardboard or newspaper underneath, and punch random holes with the nail. Make a larger hole at the top of the ornament for hanging, and attach the yarn.

Snowman Can

Materials:

- Empty coffee can
- White construction paper or fabric
- Orange and black felt or black buttons (for eyes)
- Old knit cap or fabric remnant

What to do:

Cover coffee can with white felt or construction paper. Glue ends together. Glue on black felt eyes and mouth (or use buttons). Cut orange felt into carrot shape for nose, and glue on.

Add a knit cap or mitten for a hat.

Remember...every parent has, tucked carefully away for safe-keeping, the Christmas gifts made by small hands. These are just a few for kids to make, and parents to love forever. ^

Program Links

Cubs: Handicraft Badge, Artist Badge, Tawny Star

Christmas View-Master



Create a winter scene from old cards.

Completed View-Master



Tissue Paper (White)



Mexican Tin Cut-Outs

Punch random holes with a nail.



Snowman Can

Cover coffee can with white felt or construction paper.

