



# RANGER RICK'S FAVORITE SPRINGTIME CRAFTS



6 nature-inspired  
crafts inside!





# EGG-CARTON CRITTERS

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- sturdy cardboard
- egg carton
- craft glue
- paint and markers
- googly eyes (optional)
- string
- tape
- scissors
- ruler



Cut along the dashed line.

## WHAT YOU DO:

- 1 For the animal's head, cut out one pointed cone from the inside of an egg carton. (See diagram.) Trim the bottom of the cone evenly.
- 2 Paint a face on the cone and let it dry. Draw eyes with markers or glue on googly eyes.
- 3 Cut a piece of cardboard, as shown. Once the glue has dried, paint the animal's body on the cardboard.
- 4 Glue the head to the piece of cardboard, as shown. Once the glue has dried, paint the animal's body on the cardboard.
- 5 Cut ear shapes from the lid of the egg carton. Paint the ears and glue them in place.
- 6 Paint a border along the edges of the cardboard to look like a picture frame.
- 7 Tape a loop of string to the back of the cardboard. Hang your artwork where you can admire it!

**TIP:** You can use the egg-carton cups to create animals with shorter snouts!





## WHAT YOU NEED:

- fruit
- shallow pan
- plants/flowers
- a few rocks
- sugar, molasses, corn syrup, or honey



## CREATE A BUTTERFLY GARDEN



## WHAT YOU DO:

### 1 Get nectar flowers

Best options include flat-topped flowers with red, yellow, orange, pink, or purple blossoms. Some good options include asters, azaleas, black-eyed Susan, blazing stars, butterfly weed, cardinal flower, coreopsis, goldenrod, ironweed, milkweed, phlox, purple coneflowers, and sunflowers.

### 2 Plant your flowers

Plant your flowers in a sunny spot that's also sheltered from the wind. Group plants so that lots of flowers grow close together.

### 3 Provide water and warmth

Fill a shallow pan with wet sand or mud and place it in a sunny area. Butterflies may land here to collect minerals as they sip. Add a few rocks to give butterflies a place to rest and warm up in the sun.

### 4 Make a fruity mash

If you can't plant butterfly-attracting flowers, you can make a fruity mash that butterflies and moths can't resist. Mash any fruit with a sugar source (sugar, molasses, corn syrup, or honey) and let it sit for a few hours, then smear your mash on a surface in your yard that can be hosed off later. It's best to put your mash in a semi-sunny area so it won't dry out as quickly.

### 5 Observe the butterflies

- **Which flowers are most popular?** Check out whether certain kinds of butterflies seem to prefer visiting certain flowers.
- **Do the butterflies' colors blend in or stand out?** Are they more camouflaged with their wings open or closed?
- **Can you identify the butterflies you spot?** Note their size and shape, the colors and patterns on their wings, and how they fly. Then use a field guide to search for their names.
- **Can you get close enough to watch a butterfly's long tongue unroll?** You can use a magnifying glass to see the tiny scales that cover its wings.



# RABBIT WINDSOCK



## WHAT YOU DO:

- 1** Cut the sheet of white craft foam in half lengthwise. Roll the foam lengthwise and staple the edges together to make a tube.
- 2** Cut two large ears out of white craft foam. Cut two smaller ears out of the pink craft foam. Glue the pink ears on top of the white ears.
- 3** Staple the ears onto the white tube.
- 4** Cut a triangle shape out of the pink craft foam. Glue it onto the face for a nose.
- 5** Use markers to draw the rest of the face on the rabbit, as shown.
- 6** Staple strips of ribbon along the bottom of the tube.
- 7** Cut a long piece of string and staple one end to each side of the top of the rabbit's head.

## WHAT YOU NEED:

1 sheet white craft foam  
1 sheet pink craft foam



stapler and glue



8 strips of ribbon  
(each 2' long)



string



black and red  
markers





# DIRT SHIRT



## WHAT YOU DO:

- 1** Place several layers of newspapers inside the shirt to keep the mud from soaking through to the back of the shirt.
- 2** In a bowl, mix the dirt with water to make mud that is about as thick as paint.
- 3** Think up an Earth Day slogan you would like to have on your T-shirt. (Examples: I Dig the Earth; Earth Day, Every Day; Dirt Shirt for the Earth.) Dip a stick or your finger in the mud and write your slogan on the shirt.
- 4** You can also coat items such as leaves and sticks with mud and use them to make prints on the shirt.
- 5** Let your artwork dry. Shake off any caked-on mud before proudly wearing your dirt shirt. The design will fade in the wash. But you can reapply!

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- blank t-shirt (*white or light color*)
- old newspapers
- 4-5 handfuls of dirt
- bowl
- water
- spoon
- sticks and leaves (*optional*)



# BABY CHICK IN A SHELL



## WHAT YOU NEED:

- orange construction paper (*tiny piece*)
- craft paint, egg shell color of your choice
- two cardboard egg-carton cups
- yellow feathers (*available at craft stores*)
- glue
- 2 googly eyes
- newspaper, to protect your work space
- paintbrush
- two yellow pom-poms, about the size of a golf ball

## WHAT YOU DO:

- 1 Make egg shell**  
Cut zigzag edges around the egg-carton cups to look like cracked eggshell halves.
- 2 Paint**  
Paint the inside and outside of the cups.
- 3 Glue the pom-poms together**
- 4 Make the beak**  
For the beak, cut a diamond shape from orange construction paper. Fold it in half and glue onto a pom-pom, as shown.
- 5 Add eyes and wings**  
Glue on googly eyes and feather wings.
- 6 Add the eggs**  
Put the chick in one of the cups. Set the other cup to the side.





# JUMP ON PAINTED NATURE OBJECTS TO MAKE PRINTS



## WHAT YOU NEED:

- bag for collecting items
- paint brushes
- white glue to thicken paint, if necessary
- leaves, flowers, feathers, or flat items for print objects
- newspaper
- tempera paint
- paper
- styrofoam or plastic trays

## WHAT YOU DO:

- 1 Go outside!**  
Collect items you want to use for printing. If you are not printing right away, keep them in a Ziploc bag so they don't dry out and curl up.
- 2 Cover your work area with newspaper or another protective covering.**  
Put a second and thick layer of newspaper on your work area. Place the paper you are using to make your print on top of this layer of newspaper.
- 3 Prep your paint.**  
Your paint should be the consistency of paste. If it seems too watery, add a small amount of white glue to the bottle to make it thicker. This will also prevent the paint from drying too quickly. Pick your colors and squirt about a tablespoon of tempera paint into each tray.
- 4 Pick what you want to print.**  
Lay your leaf or other flat nature objects onto the tray (not in the paint). With your brush, cover the leaf on one side with an even layer of paint.
- 5 Place painted object on the paper.**  
Place it painted side down. Do not move the object once you have put it on the paper. Repeat until you have completed your design, leaving all your objects in place. Place another thick layer of newspaper on top of your paper and nature objects.
- 6 Time to move!**  
Carefully carry your paper, along with the newspaper sections on top and underneath, and place the whole bundle on the floor, or outside on a hard surface (not the lawn).
- 7 Jump on the newspaper pile to create the print.**  
Jump straight up and down without scuffing your feet to avoid moving the objects under the newspaper.
- 8 Time to reveal your masterpiece.**  
Remove the newspapers and gently peel off your objects to see your creation!