

EASY

# Crafts *for* Kids



## 171 spring projects to make in 30 minutes or less!

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# mini zen garden

*Display stone mementos in a Japanese-inspired way.*

To set up the garden, fill a **shoe box lid** with **sand**, then add your favorite **rocks**, each labeled on the underside with the date and place it was found. Use a trimmed **plastic fork** to rake pleasing patterns in the sand.



## waxed gemstones

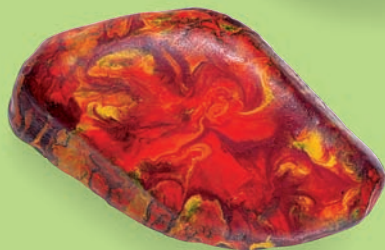
*Use crayons to turn a box of rocks into a cache of waxy jewels.*

### You will need:

- Smooth, flat rocks
- Foil-lined cookie sheet
- Newspapers
- Crayons, wrappers removed

**1** Wash and dry the rocks, then heat them on the foil-lined cookie sheet at 225° for 15 minutes. Using an oven mitt, carefully remove the rocks from the oven and set them on the stack of newspapers (an adult's job). The rocks will be very hot to the touch.

**2** Use the crayons to draw on the stones. For the marbled effect shown here, hold crayons against the rock in one place to create puddles of color, then use the end of a crayon to swirl the wax. Let the rocks dry and cool completely before handling.



### CARTON KEEPER

Taking a hike? Don't forget your egg carton! Before you go, paint the bottom of each compartment a different color, then search for natural souvenirs in corresponding hues.

# beneficial *bugs*

*These row-marking insects will stand guard over your seedlings and tell you what's planted where.*



NATURE

For each, cut a set of heart-shaped wings out of a **plastic jug**. Hold the wings in place on top of a **plastic cap** and use a **pushpin** to make two holes through both. Fold an 18-inch length of **floral wire** in half and thread the ends through the holes as shown, twisting the wire to secure it. For the eyes, use a **hole punch** to make **black craft foam** pupils and use **scissors** to cut larger circles from **white craft foam**. Attach the eyes to the cap with a 4-inch length of floral wire as you did with the wings, then trim any excess.

For the tag, stick two pieces of **white duct tape** together, then cut out a word-balloon shape. Use a **permanent marker** to write the name of your plant on the tag, then tape the tag to the wire.







**Paint** an 8-inch length of a **cardboard tube** and let it dry. Use a **craft knife** (an adult's job) to cut a cockpit for the driver and a rear flap for a spoiler. Using a **hole punch**, make two pairs of holes for the axles near the car's underside, spaced about 1½ inches apart and about ½ inch from each end. Cut two 2-inch segments from a **straw** and slide them through the holes. Insert a **toothpick** through each straw. To make wheels, use a small **nail** to poke holes in the centers of four **plastic bottle caps**, then slip the wheels onto the toothpick ends.

## trinket trove

*Here's a clever way to display and store all sorts of fun collections.*

Trim **cardboard tubes** short enough to fit standing up in a **shoe box** with the lid closed. Dip one end of each tube in a shallow dish of **tacky glue**, then stick it, glue side down, into the box. Let the glue dry, then fill the tube shelves with toys. When it's time to tidy up, just replace the box lid and stow everything until the next play session.



## A DOUBLE PUZZLE

To give an old jigsaw puzzle new life, assemble it on top of a piece of sturdy cardboard. When you're finished, place another piece of cardboard over the puzzle and carefully flip it over. Use crayons or markers to draw a picture on the puzzle's blank side.





## mint tin kits

Mint tins are sturdy and portable, so they make ideal containers for on-the-go boredom-buster kits.

To make a kit, trace a mint tin lid on lightweight paper (we used colored printer paper), then cut out and glue the paper to the lid (we used Crafter's Pick The Ultimate glue). Stick white paper to an adhesive magnetic sheet. Draw on facial features with marker, cut them out, and stow them inside the lid. Fill the tin with miniature fun gear, such as playing cards and colored pencils. Use the top as a base for creating faces.

## magic fish

With a little help from hidden magnets, this goldfish swims inside its jam-jar bowl — just like the real thing.



Cut a fish shape from paper and slip on a paper clip. Cut a length of thread about as long as the jar is tall. Tie one end of the thread to the paper clip and tape the other end to the bottom of the inside of the jar. Hold the jar upside down: the top of the fish should hang about an inch from the opening. Stack four strong magnets onto the underside of the lid, then screw the lid in place. Invert the jar again so that the clip is caught in the magnetic field, then turn the jar upright. Your fish will float. (To perfect this effect, you may need to tinker with the length of the thread or the number of magnets.) Pour in some beads to create a pebbled bottom.



# pearly bites

*A treasure can be found in every one of these oyster-shaped cookies.*

Spread a layer of **pink frosting** on the bottom of a **small, round wafer cookie**, then gently press a **yogurt-covered raisin** or peanut on top. Position another cookie as shown, anchoring one edge in the frosting. Dab on **white frosting eyes**, then use a **toothpick dipped in black food coloring** to add pupils.



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## CHERRY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

Turn a handful of bing cherries into a healthy treat that's cute as a bug. Use dabs of cream cheese to attach six bing cherries in a curved line. Sandwich cherry-stem antennae between the front two cherries. For eyes, roll two tiny balls of cream cheese, press them flat onto the head cherry, and dot them with black decorators' gel.



# butterfly bounty

*These whimsical snacks make a great spring party favor or classroom treat.*

For each bag, decorate one side of a clothespin (we used **glitter glue**). Glue two small **googly eyes** near the gripping end of the clothespin and let the glue dry. Put **small crackers, dried fruit, trail mix**, or whatever else you'd like into a **snack-size ziplock bag** until it's about half full. Seal the bag, cinch the middle with your fingers, and clip it with the clothespin. Fold down the tips of a 4½-inch length of **pipe cleaner**, then bend the entire piece in half and clip it into the clothespin.



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