

# CREATE YOUR OWN WOODLAND MUSHROOM

## YOU WILL NEED:

- Newspaper
- Corn flour/starch
- Balloon
- String
- Paint & brushes
- Stick as tall as you are (hazel is ideal)
- Kettle
- Mixing bowl
- Picture books/internet for images of mushrooms (or find real ones outside!\*)
- Small plastic bottle
- Super glue, PVA glue/glue gun & sticks
- Small bowl or bucket
- Apron



## INSTRUCTIONS:

**Step 1:** Mix 110g of corn flour with 1 litre of boiling water in a large bowl, stirring constantly to prevent lumps from forming. Once thickened, allow mixture to cool to room temperature. While you are waiting, blow up your balloon and tie a piece of string around the knot. You will use this to hang the balloon once it's covered. Stand the balloon in a bowl or bucket so it doesn't roll around.

**Step 2:** Prepare your work area by covering a table with newspaper or plastic. Wear an apron to protect your clothes. Tear newspaper into strips. Dip the strips into the cooled paste, enough to coat both sides. Lay each strip carefully onto the surface of the balloon and smooth the surface so that the whole strip of paper is making contact with the surface of the balloon. Work like this until just over half the balloon is covered in 3-4 layers of paper, applying the strips in all directions to strengthen the structure. The hole should be at the narrow end of the balloon. Hang the covered balloon somewhere safe and warm to dry overnight.

**Step 3:** Add another layer if necessary. The mushroom should be fairly solid to the touch. Now is the time to adjust the shape of the mushroom by adding paper to create lumps or bumps wherever you like. Remember, the thicker the paper and paste, the longer it will take to dry!

**Step 4:** Paint the mushroom with a single colour as a base coat, then once dry, add shading and decoration using other colours. You can use a sponge or your fingers to get different effects.

**Step 5:** Pop your balloon (carefully, scissors work well!), if it hasn't already deflated, and remove it from inside the papier-mâché shell. Take the lid off the plastic water bottle and glue it inside the top of the mushroom. This will help to keep the mushroom cap on the stick. You can paint the stick too, if you wish. You could decorate your mushroom further with moss, twigs and even models of insects, if you like!

\* Never touch or pick mushrooms you find growing, as they may be poisonous

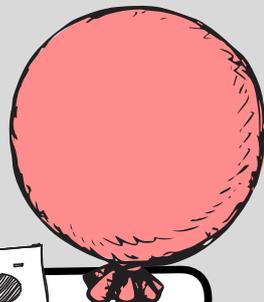


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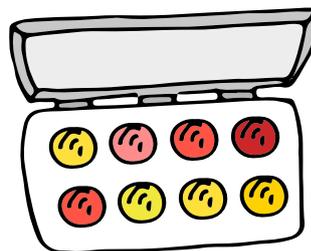
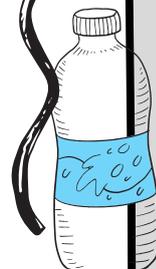
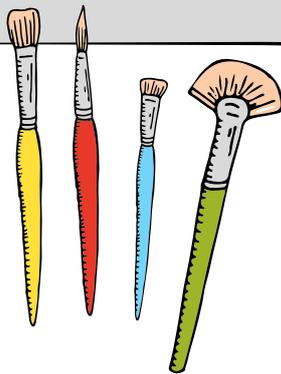
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# CREATE YOUR OWN TOWN ANIMAL MASK



## YOU WILL NEED

- Newspaper
- Corn flour/starch
- Balloon
- String
- Paint & brushes
- Kettle
- Mixing bowl
- Picture books/internet for images of foxes
- PVA glue/glue gun & sticks
- Small bowl or bucket
- Apron
- Elastic or ribbons to attach



## INSTRUCTIONS:

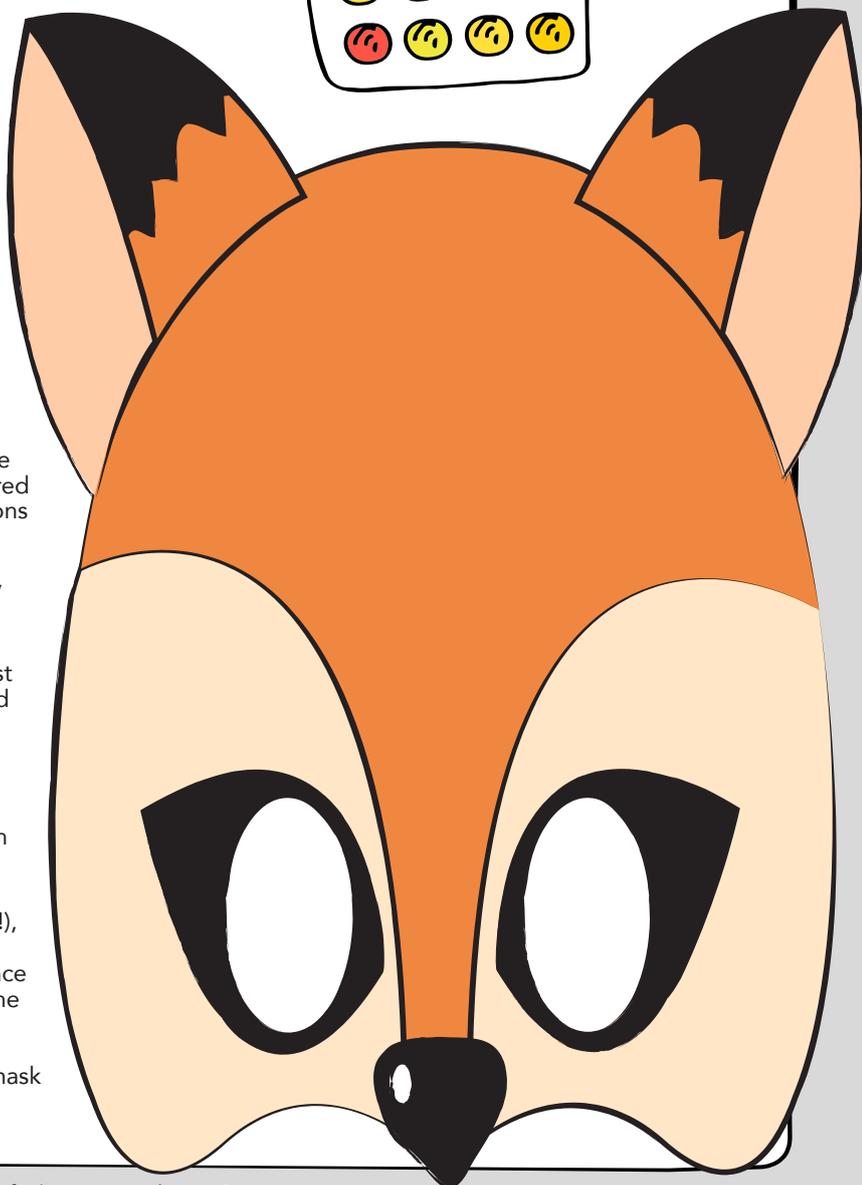
**Step 1:** Mix 110g of corn flour with 1 litre of boiling water in a large bowl, stirring constantly to prevent lumps from forming. Once thickened, allow mixture to cool to room temperature. While you are waiting, blow up your balloon and tie a piece of string around the knot. You will use this to hang the balloon once it's covered. Stand the balloon in a bowl or bucket so it doesn't roll around.

**Step 2:** Prepare your work area by covering a table with newspaper or plastic. Wear an apron to protect your clothes. Tear newspaper into strips. Dip the strips into the cooled paste, enough to coat both sides. Lay each strip carefully onto the surface of the balloon and smooth the surface so that the whole strip of paper is making contact with the surface of the balloon. Work like this until the whole balloon is covered in 3-4 layers of paper, applying the strips in all directions to strengthen the structure. Leave a small hole at the wide end so you can remove the balloon later. Hang the covered balloon somewhere safe and warm to dry overnight.

**Step 3:** The mask should be fairly solid to the touch. Add more layers if necessary. Now is the time to adjust the shape of the mask by adding more newspaper and cardboard to create the shapes of your animal's ears and snout, etc. Remember, the thicker the paper and paste, the longer it will take to dry!

**Step 4:** Paint the mask with a single colour as a base coat, then once this is dry add shading and decoration using other colours. You may even want to use a sponge or your fingers to get different effects.

**Step 5:** Pop your balloon (carefully, scissors work well!), if it hasn't already deflated, and remove it from inside the papier-mâché shell. Try to put the mask on your face and cut away any excess papier-mâché from around the hole to enable you to wear it comfortably. Then make some eye holes so you can see where you're going! Attach the elastic or ribbons if needed to keep your mask in place.



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# CREATE YOUR OWN HEDGEROW BEE/FAIRY WINGS

## YOU WILL NEED:

- A cardboard box (cereal boxes will do for smallies, thicker or corrugated card is best for bigger wings)
- Pencil for drawing your shape
- Craft knife for cutting out 'windows' (adult assistance required)
- Membrane - Tissue paper/translucent fabric/sticky back plastic/plastic bag/sheeting for covering 'windows'
- Decorative bits (flowers, glitter, old jewellery, ribbons, beads, etc)
- Elastic or ribbons to attach
- Glue (PVA or similar)
- Scissors
- Images of bees/butterflies/other insects (your own photos/books/online)
- Paints & paintbrushes



## INSTRUCTIONS:

**Step 1:** Flatten your cardboard box and draw out the shape of your wings with scissors. To make them symmetrical, you can fold the cardboard in half and cut out one side first, then draw around it and cut out the second side, remembering to keep them attached if possible.

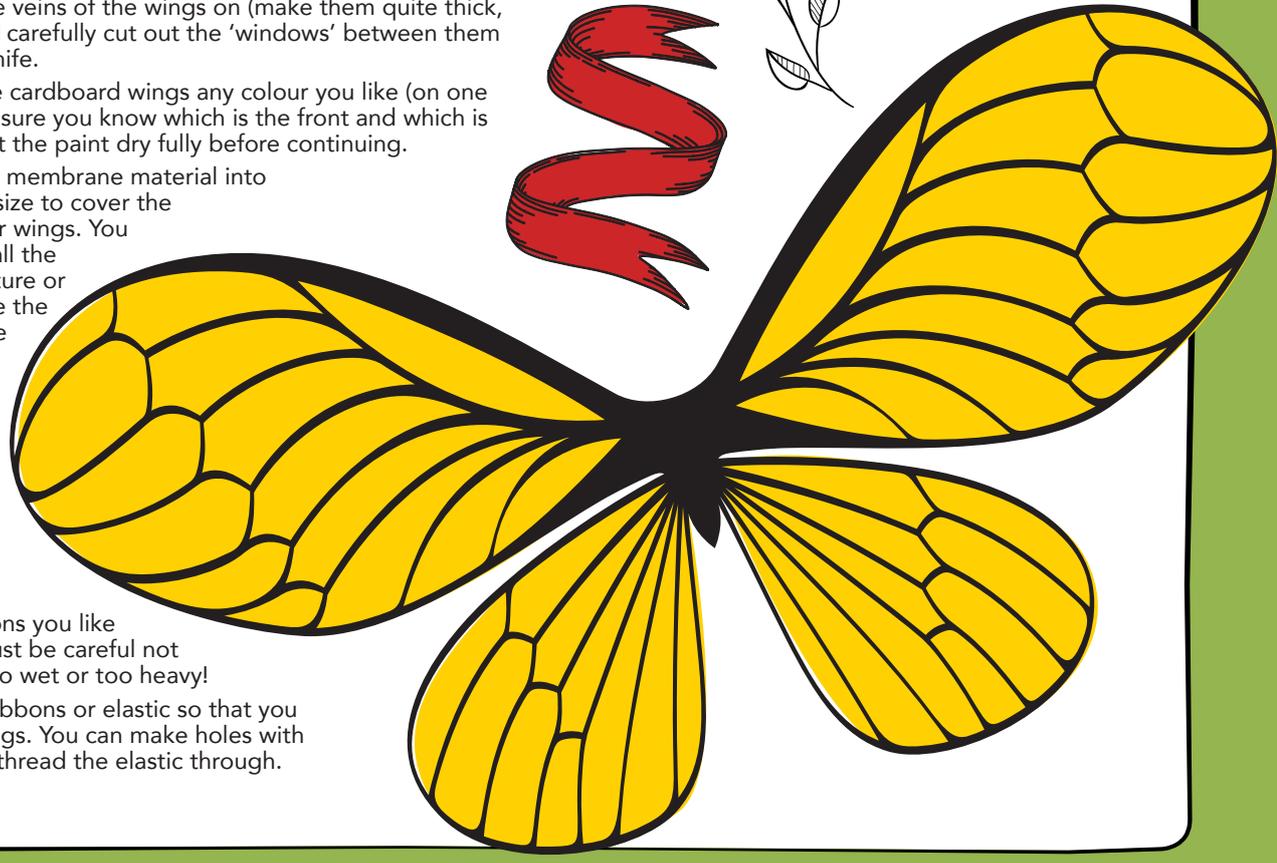
**Step 2:** Draw the veins of the wings on (make them quite thick, for strength) and carefully cut out the 'windows' between them using the craft knife.

**Step 3:** Paint the cardboard wings any colour you like (on one side only). Make sure you know which is the front and which is the back first! Let the paint dry fully before continuing.

**Step 4:** Cut your membrane material into pieces the right size to cover the 'windows' in your wings. You can make them all the same colour/texture or all different. Glue the membrane to the unpainted side of the wings. When the glue has dried, paint the other side of the wings, being careful to avoid the windows.

**Step 5:** Add any further decorations you like to your wings. Just be careful not to make them too wet or too heavy!

**Step 6:** Attach ribbons or elastic so that you can wear the wings. You can make holes with the scissors and thread the elastic through.



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# CREATE YOUR OWN MEADOW EAR OF WHEAT



## YOU WILL NEED:

- A roll of brown wrapping paper
- Newspaper
- Hot glue gun
- Long, straight stick (bamboo works well)
- Dried grasses (optional)
- Images of ears of wheat (your own photos/books/online)



## INSTRUCTIONS:

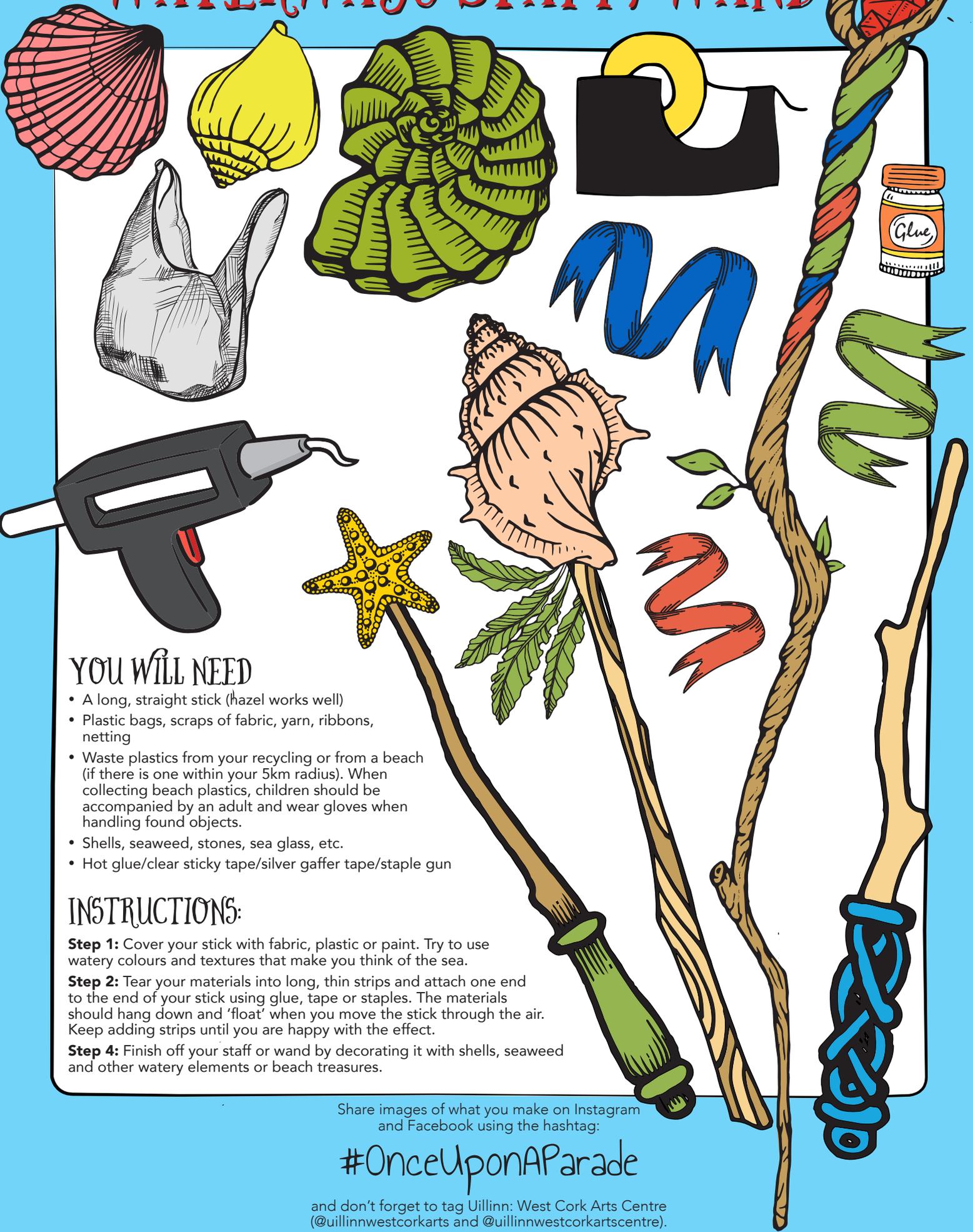
- Step 1:** Screw up sheets of newspaper into oval shaped balls. Each of these will be one 'kernel' on your ear of wheat so make them quite big, depending on how long your stick is. You can make your ear of wheat any size, it can be a tiny one, or one that is taller than you!
- Step 2:** Cut your brown paper into rough triangles big enough to wrap around each ball of newspaper 'kernel'. Wrap a piece of brown paper around each ball of newspaper and twist the ends into points.
- Step 3:** Make 8-10 kernels and glue them onto the stick one at a time, starting at the top and working your way down. Be careful not to burn yourself! Angle the kernels slightly diagonally to the stick so they look like a real ear of wheat.
- Step 4:** (Optional) Add dried grasses to the tips of the kernels and the stick. You can also make long, thin leaves and attach them to the bottom of the stick.

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# CREATE YOUR OWN WATERWAYS STAFF/WAND



## YOU WILL NEED

- A long, straight stick (hazel works well)
- Plastic bags, scraps of fabric, yarn, ribbons, netting
- Waste plastics from your recycling or from a beach (if there is one within your 5km radius). When collecting beach plastics, children should be accompanied by an adult and wear gloves when handling found objects.
- Shells, seaweed, stones, sea glass, etc.
- Hot glue/clear sticky tape/silver gaffer tape/staple gun

## INSTRUCTIONS:

**Step 1:** Cover your stick with fabric, plastic or paint. Try to use watery colours and textures that make you think of the sea.

**Step 2:** Tear your materials into long, thin strips and attach one end to the end of your stick using glue, tape or staples. The materials should hang down and 'float' when you move the stick through the air. Keep adding strips until you are happy with the effect.

**Step 4:** Finish off your staff or wand by decorating it with shells, seaweed and other watery elements or beach treasures.

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