

Mr. Bones Halloween Skeleton Decoration

MATERIALS

8 - 9 clean plastic gallon milk jugs
String
Scissors & craft knife
Glue gun (for the adults to use)
One-hole punch

**Use one milk jug per body part*

SKELETON HEAD

Turn a milk jug upside down. In the corner opposite the handle cut out a large pair of eyes, the mouth and two holes for the nostrils. Make two small slits in the top of the head and tie a loop of string through them to hang the finished skeleton.

SKELETON CHEST

Slice down the center of a jug - opposite the handle. Cut the plastic to make a rib cage. Glue the head and chest together with hot glue.

SKELETON SHOULDERS

Cut off two jug handles leaving a small collar on each end. Use hot glue to attach them to the chest section. Punch a hole at the outside end of each shoulder.

SKELETON WAIST

Cut out two spouts, leaving a 1/2-inch collar on each. Hot glue the spouts together. Glue to the bottom of the chest.

SKELETON HIPS

Use the bottom 4 1/2 inches of a jug. Cut into a pelvic shape. Glue to the bottom of the waist.

SKELETON ARMS & LEGS

Cut the bone shapes from the jugs. Tie to the shoulders and hips.

SKELETON HANDS & FEET

Trace the kid's hands and feet. Cut these shapes out of the jugs. Punch holes into the hands and feet and tie them onto the arms and legs.



For a greater effect you can paint Mr. Bones a neon color or with "glow in dark" paint so that he will glow as he greets your Halloween guests.

MILK JUG JACK-O-LANTERN

Subject: Halloween Craft

Grade: K-4

Age: 4-10



Objectives:

- Halloween fun and safety.

This Jack-O-Lantern is easy for your kinder artists to create (with a little help from you) and it is safe for your kinder artists to carry around (no fire hazards).

What You Need:

- A milk jug (a nice big gallon jug) with a lid.
- Pencil, pen or marker.
- Orange acrylic paint (or orange tempera paint with white glue mixed in).
- Paint brushes or sponges.
- Black paint or a large black magic marker.
- Small flashlight.
- Tacky glue or a hot glue gun with adult supervision.
- Scissors or an x-acto knife - with adult supervision.

What You Do:

1. First decide what kind of face your Jack-o-Lantern will have. Then, draw the features onto the milk jug.
2. Carefully cut out the eyes, nose and mouth shapes you have drawn on.
3. Your kinder artist can then paint the entire jug with orange acrylic paint. They may have to paint the jug a couple of times to get a nice thick finish.
4. Let the paint dry.
5. Once the paint has dried, your kinder artists can draw details onto the jug using the black marker.
6. Finally, you can glue a small flashlight to the inside of the jug lid. That way you can flick the flashlight on, place the lid on the jug and have a glowing Jack-O-Lantern that is safe as safe can be.

Make monstrous creations come to alive from plastic jugs and paint.

MATERIALS:

- Gallon-sized milk jug
- 2 milk caps
- Plastic deli container
- Duct tape
- Acrylic paints
- Tinfoil
- Pushpins
- Cardboard
- Craft knife

Time needed: Under 1 Hour



1. Turn over a clean, gallon-sized milk jug and rest it in a plastic deli container (for ease in standing upright, and for making Frankie's thick neck). Attach the jug to the container with duct tape, then coat jug, tape and deli container with tempera paint.
2. When the head's dry, paint bloodshot eyes, cool scars, and a head of greasy black hair.
3. To create bolts in the sides of the monster's neck, cover milk caps with tinfoil and attach them with pushpins.
4. Make a nose out of a thin piece of cardboard and slip it through a slit cut in the monster's face.

Frankenstein Windsock

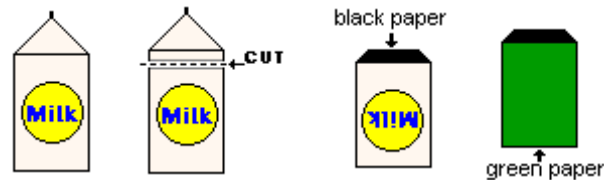
Make a windsock for Halloween using a milk carton.

Materials Needed:

- Empty, Clean Milk Carton
- Construction Paper
- Tape
- Pipe Cleaner
- Glue
- Scraps of Fabric
- Markers

Instructions:

Cut the folding top off the milk carton and make sure it is clean and dry. Cut a piece of black construction paper to fit over the bottom of the milk carton and glue it in place. Secure the sides with a little bit of scotch tape, but try to make sure it isn't too visible on the top. Cut a piece of green construction paper to fit around the side of the milk carton and tape it securely on.



Carefully punch a small hole in the bottom of the milk carton. Make sure you go through both the milk carton and the black paper you glued on. Bend the pipe cleaner in half and poke both ends through the hole so they are inside the carton. Twist the ends together to secure in place. This will be your hanger.

Cut eight 2 - 3 feet strips (about 2 - 3 inches wide) out of a piece of fabric. I prefer dark brown or black, but you can make it any color you want. Use masking tape and attach the fabric strips along the inside edge of the milk carton (where you cut it); the pieces should be touching or even slightly over-lapped. Fit two strips on each edge.



Now you can use fabric scraps or construction paper to make black hair hanging over Frankenstein's forehead. You can also use a marker, paint, or yarn to make hair. Draw facial features on with the markers or paint, and don't forget a scar!



Pine Needle and Milk Jug Bird Houses

Materials Needed:

- Pine Needles
- Yarn or Hot Glue
- Milk Jug
- Non-Washable Paint or Permanent Markers



Instructions:

Cut a hole in the side of the milk jug, big enough for a bird.

Paint or color the jug keeping in mind that some of it will be covered by the pine needles.

Select what type of pine needles you are going to work with and how much of the jug you want to cover. You will have to then decide if you want to use hot glue or yarn.

We used yarn on ours and tied it really tightly! My daughter used loose bundles of pine needles and wrapped each with yarn tightly, I used full bundles that were not bigger than my jug and wrapped each around the jug and needles tightly.

Put it outside for the birds to enjoy!



Milk Jug Animal Masks



Make this fun craft inspired by the beastly possibilities of an empty milk jug.

CRAFT MATERIALS:

- 1 one-gallon plastic jug and the top of a second, with caps
- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Craft glue
- Red, green, and white acrylic paints
- Paintbrushes
- Green felt
- Hole punch
- 2 twist ties

Time needed: Under 1 Hour

1. Use the craft knife to cut off the top of the jug, leaving the handle intact (a parent's job).
2. Use scissors to cut apart the alligator's jaws, snipping down from the top of one side, around the bottom, and up the other side of the jug .
3. Snip jagged teeth along the cut edge .
4. Glue on nostrils made from two semicircles of leftover plastic.
5. Paint the mask with green acrylic paint.
6. To make each eye, cut a hole in green felt large enough for the cap to poke through, then wrap the felt around the plastic base and glue it down; glue on both eyes.
7. Punch a hole in the inside corner of each jaw and use the ties to join top to bottom.

Milk Jug Piñata

Take a swing at making your own piñata. These colorful creations are a hit every time.

Materials:

1 gallon plastic milk jug
craft knife
candy
masking tape
scissors
tissue paper in various colors
decoupage medium
foam paintbrush
orange craft foam
feathers
glue gun
colored tape
pipe cleaners – pink and brown
round-nose pliers
two 2" foam balls
two googly eyes



Milk Jug Piñata

1. Working with a clean, dry milk jug and a craft knife, cut a U-shaped flap in the bottom of the jug. The jug will hang from the handle, so cut the flap to have the opening pointing downward when the piñata is hanging (**figure A**).
2. Fill the jug with candy and tape the flap closed with a small piece of masking tape. The tape will hold the flap down as tissue paper is layered over the jug.
3. Cut tissue paper into small (roughly 2") squares and paste them to the jug with decoupage medium (**figure B**). Cover the jug with as many layers of tissue paper as you want, just be sure to cover the opening on the bottom with only two or three layers – this will hold the flap closed until the piñata has been hit to the point of bursting open. Set the jug aside until the decoupage medium has thoroughly dried (**figure C**).



Figure A



Figure B



Figure C

4. Add embellishments to the piñata. Use hot glue to attach feathers along the sides and back of the jug (**figure D**). Colored tape can be used to attach feathers to the handle of the jug.
5. Using the palm of your hand, flatten one side of the Styrofoam balls by pressing the ball against a flat surface (**figure E**). Next, hot glue the flattened balls to either side of the jug's handle and hot glue a googly eye to each of the Styrofoam balls (**figure F**).



Figure D



Figure E



Figure F

6. To make the piñata into a bird, cut two triangular pieces of craft foam (see template, at right) and hot-glue them around the spout of the jug, forming a beak (**figure G**).

7. Shape pink pipe cleaners into legs for the bird; use a brown pipe cleaner to make a worm to put in the bird's beak. Before attaching pipe cleaners to the bird, use round-nose pliers to curl the sharp pipe cleaner ends under to prevent possible injury if the beak or worm fall off of the piñata while it is being hit (**figure I**).

8. Place the worm in the bird's beak and secure the worm with hot glue, if necessary (**figure J**). Hot-glue the legs to the underside of the jug. Use your imagination when embellishing a piñata; just remember to use soft, light items that won't hurt anyone if they fall off when the piñata is hit.



Figure G



Figure H



Figure I

Ball Catchers

These are great for children that are too young to catch a small ball as they may have a better chance of catching them with these containers!

Parental supervision is recommended. Caution: The milk carton or soap container can be hard to cut, so have an adult or parent do it for you.

This project is rated AVERAGE to do.

What You Need

- 2 Plastic milk cartons
- Sharp scissors
- Colored electrical tape or "Painters" paint markers
- Ball to play with

How To Make It

1. Wash and let dry the milk cartons well before starting. Note: It may be easier to cut the bottom off of the containers first.
2. Use the sharp scissors to cut the milk carton or detergent bottle. First cut off the bottom, then cut a U shape under the handle. Make sure you don't cut into the handle so you can hold on the ball catch. (see photo)
3. Use the colored electrical tape or "Painters" paint markers to decorate the milk cartons.
4. Have fun playing catch and toss with these fun toys.



Milk Jug Igloo



Photo of a milk jug igloo constructed by Britt/PA

When I first started I used to cut the gallon size milk jugs in half and use only the bottoms. It was rather flimsy and need shoring up. Then I read about using the whole jug and Ta - Da!! It worked like a charm.

I do prefer to glue to a piece of cardboard. I purchased two "project display" boards at Staples and taped them together. Last year I didn't do this and the igloo wasn't quite as sturdy.

On the cardboard lay out 25-26 jugs in a complete circle. Caps pointing in. Remove 3-4 for the entrance. Glue the remaining jugs to the cardboard and each other. I use High temp glue. Have a lot of large glue sticks on hand. You'll need them.

Continue to add jugs row upon row. I usually go up three or four rows before I go over the entrance. After that keep adding jugs bringing them in toward the center a little more each row till you end with several filling in at the very top.

It takes at least several hundred jugs so start collecting. I usually start asking parents to save them in November and start bringing them in in January. The igloo is very sturdy and moveable. I use it only for quiet reading for two students. One year I took only the top rows off and stored the bottom. The following year I started from where it left off.

Clean jugs are a must. I usually do one row at a time each day so the glue will harden well.

Crayon Candles

Instructions to make a candle out of crayons and a milk carton, submitted by Nicki.

Materials Needed:

- Crayons
- Candle Wicks
- 2 Pint Milk Carton
- Ice

Instructions:

Candle making can be both fun and dangerous. You should **never** try any projects that use heat and fire without an adults help, and always follow candle safety rules.

Cut off the top of the milk carton so that you have a "box" with one end open. Next, Melt crayons over medium heat (there are plastic bags available that you can place the wax or crayons in so that you then just place that bag into boiling water to melt).

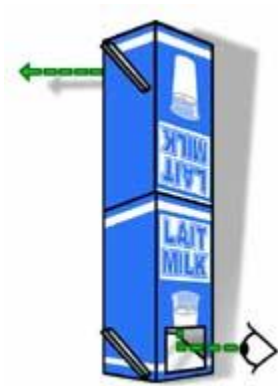
The crayons can be broken and different colors, but the washable type do NOT work well. You can use the wax for candle crafts found at the discount stores and add just a few crayons of the desired color to tint it. Place wick into the milk carton and fill carton with ice. Be sure that the wick is fairly centered and running the entire length of the carton. Now, pour melted wax/crayon mixture into the carton filling to the top. Let sit until hardened and ice has melted, then carefully cut and peel away the carton from the candle.

You will now have a beautiful candle. The ice in the carton caused the wax to quickly harden around the cubes. The result is a "swiss cheese" looking candle. Each one looks a little different! These must be handled carefully after finished as the swiss cheese nature of the candle make it fragile.

Helpful Hints from Diane in Arizona: I have done this candle project. It is fun. I have two hints: One, make sure the ice is crushed well - too large and your candle will not stay together; and two, use a taper candle in place of the candle wick. Taper candles are far easier to acquire than the wicks if you don't have a good craft shop nearby.

Pretty Cool Periscope

You don't need to be in a submarine to use a periscope. A periscope will let you see over high walls or peek around corners.



Materials:

- Two one or two litre milk cartons
- Two small pocket mirrors (flat, square ones work best)
- Sharp knife
- Protractor
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Duct tape or masking tape

This craft requires cutting with a sharp knife. Play it safe and have a grown-up do the cutting.

Assembly:

1. Using the knife remove the tops of the milk cartons.

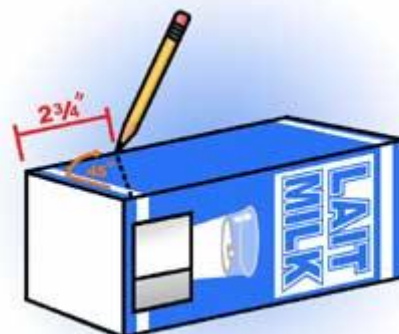


2. For a one litre carton, cut a 2 inch square out of the bottom of one of the milk cartons. Be careful to leave 1/4" – 1/2" of carton at the bottom and sides. For a 2 litre carton make the square 2 1/2". This will be one of your view-through holes.



3. Now we need to make a slot to hold one of the mirrors. Turn the carton over so that the hole you made is now facing right.

4. With your protractor, find a point that's at a 45° angle from the bottom right corner of this panel. Draw a straight line from the bottom right corner and through the point to the left edge of the panel.



5. Starting at the bottom right corner, carefully cut along the line just as long as needed to fit the mirror in. Thicker mirrors may require a wider slot.



6. Slide the mirror through the slot with the reflecting surface pointed towards the top of the carton.



7. Look through the square that you've cut. Adjust the mirror until you can see the ceiling through the top of the carton. Tape the mirror in place.

8. Repeat steps 2 through 7 with the second milk carton.

9. Place one carton on the table with the square cut hole facing you. Flip the second carton upside down and turn the hole away from you. Take the second carton and squeeze the open end just enough so that you can slide it about 2" inside the open end of the other carton.



10. Wrap tape around the cartons where they join to hold them in place.



Now the fun begins. Try out your periscope to look around corners, over fences, under your bed...