

FANTASTIC FLOWERS

STEP 1: COLLECT AND ORGANIZE ALL OF YOUR MATERIALS

Gather the following materials:



- Smock (to protect your clothing)
- Large, round coffee filters (5-10 each)
- Food colouring
- Ice cube tray (or other clean plastic containers such as recycled plastic tubs)
- Watercolour paint brush
- Pipe cleaners (green and various colours)
- Any pliable wire and scissors
- Small jar (see-through/clear preferable)
- Small stones, beads, marbles, shells, etc.

Collect all of your materials, put on a smock and cover your work surface with plastic. We will be using food colouring for this activity, which may stain your hands, but is completely safe.

STEP 2: PAINT YOUR FLOWERS

Fill up half of your ice cube tray/plastic container with water. Be sure not to add too much water, as it may dilute your colours. Add between 3-10 drops of food colouring into each partition or container. Repeat for each of the colours that you would like to use. Remember that you can add more or less water to control how light or dark each colour will be.

Begin painting your choice of designs onto your coffee filters. The middle of the filter will become the centre of your flower.



TIP: Be sure to rinse and dry your brush before you dip into a new colour in your tray. This will prevent accidental dilution or mixing of colours.

STEP 3: DRY YOUR DESIGNS

Once you have finished painting your designs, you will need to dry them. It helps to put them upside down rather than laying them flat. You can hang them over something like a recycled yogurt container.

TIP: Do not leave your coffee filters to dry on organic materials like cloth or wood because the food colouring will stain them.



STEP 4: BUILD YOUR FLOWERS

Once your painted filters are completely dry, it is time to shape them into flowers. Find the centre of your painted filter and poke your index finger there. With your other hand, gently pull the filter around your finger, twisting it clockwise. Pinch the tip with one hand and pull your other finger away. Now wrap your flexible wire around the pinched end tightly to keep the flower in place.

You can bend or cut your wire/pipe cleaner stems to adjust the length of each flower or to better fit the size of your jar.

TIP: It may be helpful for parents to secure the first twist of wire and then let children shape the stems.



STEP 5: DECORATE YOUR JAR

To help your flowers stay balanced in the jar, you can add small objects to give the jar some weight and decorative details. Look around your home or yard for nice objects that you would like to use. Examples include pebbles, marbles, shells and coloured sand.

TIP: if you choose to add sand, it might be easier to start by placing the flowers' stems inside your jar.



STEP 6: ARRANGE YOUR FLOWERS IN THE VASE!

Carefully arrange your flowers in a way that pleases you. Be careful not to damage the flowers by being too rough. Try and space your flowers evenly to great a more aesthetically pleasing vase.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF:
Did you know that you can use more than one painted filter per flower? It can be a bit more difficult to twist into a flower shape, but the additional filter adds more colour and dimension to the final product. Give it a try if you want to see the different shapes and textures you can achieve.



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