

# Halloween Crafts Made Easy



## Techniques to Save On Your Halloween Crafts

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## **Introduction**

Everyone has their favorite holiday – and for many people Halloween is absolutely IT! They love decorating their yards with ghoulish recreations of graveyards and haunted houses. Pumpkin carving is an art form. Costumes are planned years in advance.

I have a good friend who has a Halloween party every year that is the blow-out of all blow-outs! Her whole entire house was transformed into a haunted house – she even created a maze for the kids in the basement complete with ghouls jumping from corners and everything.

What impressed me the most about her Halloween decorations was that almost all of them were hand made by her over the course of a year, Of course, she would save them from year to year until eventually her collection of Halloween décor almost required a storage room of its own.

Now a lot of people think they aren't crafty enough to make their own Halloween decorations or costumes. Nothing could be further from the truth. Anyone at all can make some fun and cute – or scary, depending on your preference – decorations for Halloween.

Think of it this way – even Kindergartners make Halloween crafts, so if they can do it, so can you! All you need is a little guidance, very little know-how, and some great instruction! That's what we're here for!

After reading this book, you'll realize that Halloween crafts don't have to cost a lot of money and can be done by the whole family. Of course, some of the projects will require a little extra expertise that can't be done by little hands, but others are perfect for kids and can make for some great family together time.

There's no need to spend a lot of money to decorate your home and yard for Halloween or even to have a "killer" Halloween costume. You can make anything you want with a little creativity and even some common household items.

Halloween is a fun time of the year. The crisp fall air brings about thoughts of football games, hot apple cider, and trick or treating. We think that once you realize how easy and fun it is to make your own Halloween decorations, you'll start embracing this holiday the way others have.

Let's start with a brief history of Halloween.

## **Chapter 1 - The History of Halloween**

Many people think that Halloween is a “devil worshipping” holiday celebrated by people who don’t believe in God, but the truth is that Halloween really has its basic origins in the Catholic Church. Halloween means “All Saints Eve” or “All Hallows Eve”.

All Saints Day is a religious holiday observed by the Catholic Church and set aside for worship of all the saints in heaven. They used to consider it with all solemnity as one of the most significant observances of the Church year

The American origin of Halloween extends further from the Celts celebration of Samhain (pronounced sow – in) which is a Druidic festival made to celebrate the end of the harvest. As with a lot of Celtic lore, faeries were thought to be extremely active at this time as they ushered in the winter.

Celts believed that on the night before the “new year”, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrate Samhain. It was on this day that they believe the ghosts of the dead returned to Earth causing trouble and damaging crops.

Celts felt that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids – Celtic priests – to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the natural world, which could be quite volatile, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes – typically consisting of animal heads and skins – and they tried to tell each other’s fortunes. They would build huge sacred bonfires where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.



When the celebration was over, they re-lit the fires in their hearths which they had put out earlier that evening. The fires would be re-lit with flame from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

While Halloween is generally thought of as a Pagan festival, back in the days when All Hallows Eve was celebrated, it was considered a religious rite by the people of the time. They felt it was very important to pay homage to the Gods that they thought ruled their world. Remember that long ago, people had very different beliefs than what we hold today.

As you can see, there are some similarities to modern-day Halloween festivities and the ancient Celtic celebration – bonfires and costumes. And there is much more than that when you really delve into the various customs and rituals.

Over the years, the Halloween we know and celebrate today has evolved in various ways. With the influx of immigrants coming into America in the 1800 and 1900's, we began to see Halloween take on various parts of traditional Halloween celebrations in other countries that would meld into what we know it as today.

For example, the Irish would think of October 31st as “Mischief Night” and play pranks on their friends, neighbors, and family. These pranks were harmless. Favorites were tipping over outhouses and unhinging fence gates. Of course, storytellers would put these pranks on the shoulder of mythical faeries, elves, and witches, lending to the mysterious nature of Halloween itself!

As for the history of the most popular part of Halloween – trick or treating – there are a few schools of thought. It is originally thought that trick or treating stemmed from a practice in the middle ages where poor people would go from

door to door begging for food in exchange for prayers for the dead on All Hallows Day.

However, most scholars believe that trick or treating is actually an American invention that came about in the 1930's. The practice of pranking had, by this time, become actually a little violent with some real destruction to property taking place.

Many people – the Boy Scouts of America included – wanted to encourage people to find a more constructive alternative to pranking. While there is no historical evidence to prove this conclusively, most people believe this is how trick or treating came about.

What about that time-honored tradition of carving pumpkins making them into jack-o-lanterns? There's a history behind that too! The carved pumpkin lit by a candle inside is one of Halloween's most prominent symbols.

Although there is a tradition in Great Britain and Ireland of carving a lantern from a rutabaga or turnip, the practice was first named and associated with Halloween in North America where the pumpkin was available. American pumpkins were (are) also larger and much easier to carve. Most families who celebrate Halloween carve a pumpkin into a frightening or comical face and place it on their home's doorstep after dark.

The carved pumpkin is also called a jack-o'-lantern and its history can be traced back to the Irish story of Stingy Jack known as a greedy, gambling, hard drinking old farmer who tricked the devil into climbing a tree. Stingy Jack then trapped him up in the tree by carving a cross into the trunk of the tree.

In revenge, the devil places a curse on old Jack which dooms him to wander the Earth at night for eternity. For centuries, this bed time parable was told by Irish

parents to their children which is why they began to carve turnips placing a candle inside to symbolize Jack's curse.

In America, the tradition of carving pumpkins have preceded the Great Famine period of Irish immigration and the tradition of carving vegetable lanterns may also have been brought over by the Scottish or English. However, documentation is unavailable to establish when or by whom. The carved pumpkin was associated generally with harvest time in America and did not become specifically associated with Halloween until the mid to late 19th century.

So, you can see that the Halloween traditions we know today have their essential roots in folklore and past celebrations from other cultures. At this point, we feel like we should address one of the biggest myths associated with Halloween – that it is only for Satanists and Devil worshippers. That is simply not true.

Halloween is a Pagan holiday and not a Satanic holiday. It is important to distinguish between Paganism and Satanism. People who are Pagans believe in more than one God. They do not worship the devil, make human sacrifices, or disbelieve in a Higher Being. They simply believe that there are many Gods instead of one.

While you, personally, may disagree with that, if we look at modern religion, you will find many that believe in this same tenet – worshipping different entities – right down to the Catholic Church who worship saints although they don't worship them as Gods but just as God-like.

However, this book isn't a religious debate. It's an informational book, and you should know that Halloween has evolved into more of an entertainment holiday than anything else. While its roots do lie in ancient rites, these days, Halloween doesn't worship Satan, doesn't conjure up witches, and doesn't make ghosts "come out of the woodwork" just because it is October 31st.

The mystery, though, is what intrigues a lot of people along with the chance to be playful, scary, and transform themselves into something they aren't in everyday life. That is why so many people love to dress up, have parties, decorate their homes and revel in being ghoulish, in general!

Want to know how people around the world celebrate Halloween? Some do, some don't, but it can be really fascinating to know how various cultures pay homage to All Hallows Eve.

## **Chapter 2 - Halloween Around The World**

Some people really love Halloween. This writer is a “Halloween baby” and so this time of the year always has a special meaning for me. My birthday parties were always Halloween themed, and, until I was much older, I really thought that everyone dressed up and went trick or treating so they could bring me candy for my birthday!

Some cultures celebrate Halloween and others don't. But it can be fascinating to look at the traditions of different countries when it comes to Halloween. After all, we don't all celebrate things the same way – and Halloween is no different! Let's start where much of the holiday began.

### **Ireland**

The belief is that Halloween originated in Ireland and, as we've said previously, was known as “Samhain Night”. This festival celebrated the end of the harvest season and ushered in the winter.

They spent the evening of October 31st dressed in costume celebrating around bonfires and paying homage to the Druid Gods that were hoped to keep them safe throughout the long winter.

Today, in Ireland, adults and children dress up as creatures from the underworld. The costumes range from ghosts, ghouls, zombies, witches, and goblins. They light bonfires and enjoy spectacular fireworks displays even if in some places fireworks are illegal.

The children walk around knocking on the doors of neighbors to gather fruit, nuts, and sweets for the Halloween festival. At one time, salt was sprinkled in the hair of the children by their neighbors in order to protect them from evil spirits.

Houses are decorated with carved pumpkins or turnips that sports scary faces and a candle is placed inside the hollowed out fruit to light and decorate. The Irish also decorate their homes to celebrate this holiday.

Many people still bake a traditional Halloween cake called a barmbrack which is fruit bread. Each member of the family gets a slice of the cake. Great interest is taken in this tradition as there is a piece of rag, a coin, and a ring in each cake.

If you get the rag, then your financial future is doubtful. If you get the coin, you can look forward to a prosperous year. Finally, if you are lucky enough to get the ring, it is a sure sign of impending romance or continued happiness.

During the Halloween celebrations in Ireland, games are played such as bobbing for apples where apples, peanuts, along with other nuts, fruit, and small coins are put into a basin of water. The apples and peanuts float. The coins are harder to catch since they sink.

Everyone takes turns catching as much as can be caught using only their mouth and no hands. In some houses, the coins are pushed into the fruit for the children to “earn” as they catch each apple. Apple bobbing is popular in America as well.

The Scottish and English also have taken this tradition into their own Halloween customs with a game named ducking. It is named after the fast movement of a person’s head under the water to try and get a prize without having the head under water for too long.

Another popular Halloween game involves trying to eat an apple that is hung from the ceiling on a string. The catch here, just as with apple bobbing – or ducking – is that the participant cannot use their hands.

In Ireland, children have a week-long break from school for Halloween. In fact, the last Monday in October is a public holiday give for Halloween even though October 31st and this holiday do not necessarily coincide.

## **Scotland**

The Gaelic culture and language has been shared between Scotland and Ireland and thus both countries have celebrated the festival of Samhain for centuries. They both celebrate Samhain to mark the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

Halloween in Scotland consists chiefly of children going door to door “guising” – dressed in disguise often as a witch or ghost and offering entertainment of various sorts. If the entertainment is enjoyed, the children are rewarded with sweets, fruits, or money. Even though there is no official trick or treat in Scotland, it is obvious that this custom gave rise to the popular trick or treating we enjoy today.

In Scotland, a lot of folklore revolves around the belief in faeries. Halloween is no different. Children dress up in costume and carry around a “Neepy Candle” which is a devil’s face carved into a hollowed out Neep which is a rutabaga or yellow turnip. They light the Neepy Candle from the inside to frighten away the evil faeries. This, of course, is much like us in North America carving pumpkins and lighting them from the inside.

Popular children’s games played on Halloween include “dookin” for apples – retrieving an apple from a bucket of water using only the mouth. In many places, this has been replaced by standing over the bowl holding a fork in the mouth and releasing it aiming to skewer an apple. Another favorite game is trying to eat a

sugar coated scone hanging from the ceiling on a piece of string while being blindfolded.

## **England and Wales**

In the Fifth and Sixth centuries, the native Celts were pushed North and West into Britain by the Anglo-Saxon invasions. This sent the Celts to present-day Wales, Scotland, and Cornwall, and they brought the festival of All Hallows Eve with them. In 835, All Saints Day was fixed on the First of November and then in 998, on November Second.

On All Souls Eve (Halloween), families sat up and little “soul cakes” were eaten by everyone. At the stroke of midnight, there was silence with candles burning in every room to guide the souls back to visit their earthly homes. A glass of wine was set on the table to refresh them on their journeys.

This tradition continued in some areas of northern England as late as the 1930’s with children going from door to door “souling” for cakes or money by singing songs. They would receive treats as rewards for their caroling.

Halloween and the associated holidays of All Saints Day, etc. didn’t always fall on October 31st as we now know. In the 16th century, the English reformation transferred Halloween practices such as the building of bonfires were switched to the 5th of November.

Halloween celebrations in the United Kingdom were re-popularized in the 1980’s with influence from America. That saw the reintroduction of traditions such as pumpkin faces and trick or treating.



Between 2001 and 2006, Halloween became the third most profitable holiday for retailers in the UK. Today, adults and children alike will dress up to attend fancy dress parties, pubs and clubs on Halloween night.

In some places of England, there is a similar festival called holy day which falls on the 4th of November. Children play tricks on adults ranging from the minor to the more serious. Pranks include taking garden gates off their hinges and then maybe throwing them into ponds or taking them a long distance away. In recent years, some of these tricks have turned into severe acts of vandalism and criminal damage including street fires and destruction of private property.

Children also make jack-o'-lanterns by carving faces or designs into hollowed out pumpkins and then illuminating them from within. They are then displayed in windows keeping with the night's theme of fright and horror. Before the introduction of pumpkin carving from America, the British used to carve rutabagas or yellow turnips instead and this is still done in some areas.

As in many others parts of the world, bobbing for apples is a well-established custom on Halloween synonymous with the Scottish "dukin". Apples are put into a barrel that was filled to the brim with water and an individual would have to catch an apple by catching them in their mouth without using their hands.

Once an apple was caught, it was traditional to peel the apple and toss the peel over one's shoulder in hopes that the strips would fall into the shape of a letter. Whatever letter the peelings arranged into would be the first initial of the person's true love.

According to another superstition, the longer the peel, the longer the peeler's life would be. Some also say that the first to get an apple would be the first to marry.

Other Halloween festivities in England include fireworks, recounting ghost stories and playing children's games like hide and seek. Apple tarts may be baked with a coin hidden inside and nuts of all types are traditional Halloween fare.

Some more adventurous children may play a game called "thunder and lightning" which involves knocking like thunder on a neighbor's door and running away like lightning. This game is known by several names including knock-door-run, knock-and-run, knock-knock-zoom-zoom, ding-dong-ditch or postman's knock and is played on Mischief Night.

Just as with many traditions, they slowly change over the years as new games and activities are added or taken away. A majority of children in England today will arrive at a door and yell trick or treat for money and sweets to be given out – just as in America.

There has been a growing concern in England about the potential for anti-social behavior caused at Halloween, particularly as caused by older teens. Cases of houses being attacked by "egg-bombing", especially when the occupants do not give children money or gifts, have been reported. The BBC reports that beginning in Halloween, 2006, police forces have stepped up patrols to respond to trouble such as this.

## **Mexico**

For our neighbors to the south in Mexico, Halloween is a 21st century phenomenon which is mostly confined to the larger urban areas. The celebrations are obviously influenced by American style and traditions. These include children dressing up in costumes and visiting neighborhood houses searching primarily for candy.

Though the “trick or treat” motif is also used, trucks are not generally played on those houses not giving away candy. Older crowds of teenagers and adults will sometimes organize Halloween-themed parties though the observance of the Halloween party on the night of October 31st is sometimes changed for the nearest available weekend.

In Mexico, Halloween also starts off three days of consecutive holidays as it is followed by All Saint’s Day and then the Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos. Since Mexico is primarily a Catholic country, some of the first explanations give to children on the holiday followed a more traditional Catholic and Mexican theme.

This explanation – which is also sometimes used by groups opposed to Halloween in attempts to discredit the holiday – is that during October 31st, all of the evil spirits are welcomed into this world. On November 1st, all of the saintly spirits make a visit to this world, and then on November 2nd all of the spirits who have died come. It is rare to find someone in Mexico who will be able to identify Halloween’s primarily Pagan roots.

### **Australia and New Zealand**

In the southern hemisphere, spring is in full force at the end of October, and the days are rapidly growing longer and brighter. This does not mesh well with the traditional Celtic spirit of Halloween which relies on the atmosphere of the encroaching darkness of winter. That is what Halloween came from originally, after all – ushering out the harvest season and bringing in the winter.

However, Halloween has recently gained a large amount of recognition in Australia and, to an extent to New Zealand as well. This can be attributed to American cultural media influences. In 2006, Australian costume shops reported

a rise in sales on Halloween themed costumes. On Halloween night, horror films and horror themed episodes of certain TV series are aired for the tradition.

If you are planning on going to Australia or New Zealand around Halloween time, you will need to prepare in advance because most of the celebrating is done at private parties. Trick or treaters are usually supervised by adults and they stay in their own neighborhoods for safety reasons. It actually is a practice that is carried out by pre-arrangement with nearby neighbors.

Tricks are not played in Australia, and treats are wrapped and sealed “lollies” or lollipops that remain sealed for safety reasons. They are usually given to children only by known neighbors and friends. Giving of treats to children beyond this may be greeted with suspicion or even hostility by parents and is actively discouraged by Australian law enforcement.

If trick or treaters do go beyond these culturally accepted norms, it is mainly in the form of anti-social behaviors by small groups to cause mindless destruction. This is similar to issues we see in the United States on Halloween as well as in the United Kingdom.

The destructive behaviors have little to do with community building Halloween practices associated with Europe and the USA. Such destruction, perhaps, reflects broader and more unpleasant societal issues like unemployment, boredom, or a lack of preparedness to accept social responsibility. In other words, those who cause this type of destruction are rebels looking to turn their inner anger elsewhere.

Such anti-social actions like these performed in Australia when associated with Halloween are widely frowned upon and have led to a sense of hostility in some places. Critics say that this type of “trick or treating” is little more than an excuse

for the mindless copying of American customs with little relevance in Australian society.

In America, we do have certain acts of vandalism and violence that take place around Halloween time. In Australia, this type of vandalism has been known to target school and community buildings, cemeteries, or places of worship. Such actions have routinely led to police investigations, but they are regarded as little more than petty crimes and often juvenile based.

Because Halloween has been largely thought of in Australia as an American custom, many people in Australia do not celebrate Halloween. They feel that celebrating this holiday reflects a cultural neo-imperialism of the United States through the influence of highly popular media. Some emphasize that their hostility to Halloween reflects a wider refusal to have anything to do with what they feel is senseless or commercial Americanisms.

There are many countries and cultures that do not celebrate Halloween, but with the influx of Americans moving about the world, often, they are introduced to the customs and warm to the concept though it is not a global holiday at all. As you can probably tell, Halloween is generally a European and North American holiday.

So there you have a brief history of Halloween as well as a general idea of how those around the world celebrate this holiday. Now, it's time to get down to "business". How do YOU make your Halloween celebration the best it can be without spending a lot of money? It's easier than you think!

## **Chapter 3 - Halloween Crafts**

Even if you've never been much of a crafter, you can still make some great Halloween crafts that you can use to decorate your home and make the holiday festive. Halloween evokes images of spooky ghosts, black cats, evil witches, and flying bats. You can recreate many of these images with fun and easy crafts.

The best part about making Halloween crafts is that it is something that the whole family can do and it can give you some time to spend together. Many Halloween crafts can be made by almost any age child. Even your toddler can help out and learn new skills like cutting, drawing, and coloring.

We are going to give you a whole bunch of ideas for Halloween crafts. Many of them can be made out of common household items which means you won't have to spend a lot of money on craft supplies. Believe it or not, you can turn an ordinary plastic grocery bag into a spooky ghost and an egg carton into an ominous bat.

Of course, you will need a few crafting supplies from the store. We suggest keeping some on hand for future craft projects as well. Here is a list of basic craft items that are good to keep a supply of:

- Various colors craft paint – black, white, green, orange, etc.
- Pipe cleaners
- Googly eyes
- Hole punch
- Fun foam in various colors

Of course, most households will have standard craft supplies like scissors, tape, and glue. If you don't have these, though, you will need them as well. If you find

that you will really get into crafting, this list will grow, but this is enough to get your started.

One thing we want to tell you about crafting with kids is to be patient with them and don't expect perfection from their work. The whole idea of crafting with kids is to spend time with them and have fun.

An art teacher of mine once said there's no such thing as perfection in art – just discoveries. This is especially true for children. Even a toddler's scribbling can be art, so have a good time and enjoy the togetherness.

So, let's get started and give you some amazing ideas for fun and easy Halloween crafts. Be prepared – it's going to be fun!

## Chapter 4 - Bats and Spiders and Such

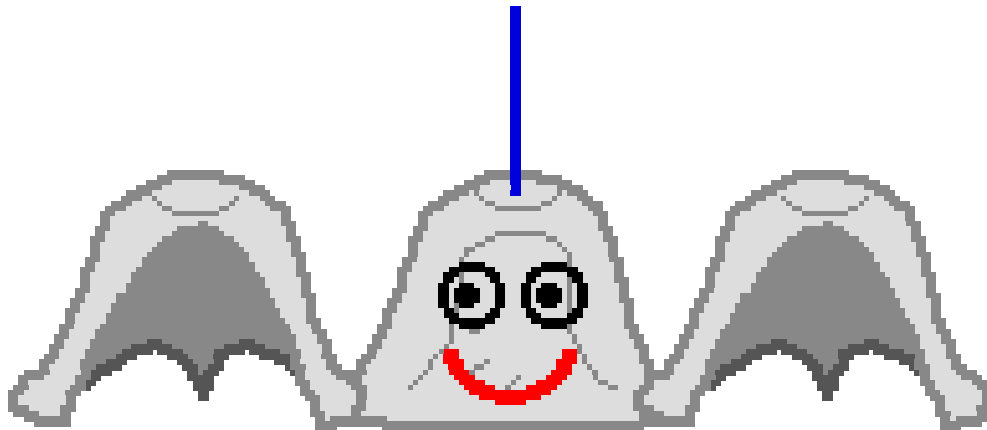
### Egg Carton Bat

For this craft, you will need a clean egg carton. You can use either a Styrofoam or a cardboard one, but if you want to hang your bats outside from the trees, the Styrofoam ones will be better.

Cut out three of the egg cups keeping them attached together. Cut out the front and back of the two outside cups. This will form your bat's wings. Paint your bat black with craft paint. Again, if you want to hang them outside, you will want to use waterproof paint. Once the paint is dry, you can paint on a scary face with white paint or glue on googly eyes.

Use a pair of scissors to poke a hole in the top of the middle cup. Take a piece of string and make a knot large enough that it won't pull through the hole and put the string in the hole. Now you have your egg carton bat ready to be hung from wherever you want. Make several of these for maximum spookiness!

Here's what your bat should look like:



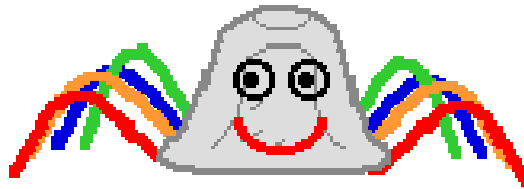


## Egg Carton Spider

You can also use an egg carton to make a spider. For this craft, you just need to cut out one of the egg cups from the carton. Paint your spider black and wait for it to dry. Paint on eyes or glue googly eyes on him.

Use the tip of pointed scissors to make four small holes on each side of the egg cup. Insert a pipe cleaner in each of the holes and twist the pipe cleaners from the inside to form a knot of sorts so the pipe cleaners do not come out of the holes. Then bend the legs so your spider will stand on his own.

Here's what your spider should look like:



## Clothespin Bat

For this craft, you'll need an ordinary clothespin and either black construction paper or black fun foam. Use the following template to make the bat wings and body:



Of course, you will need to enlarge the pattern. You need to have it large enough to cover the clothespin completely. Trace onto the foam or paper and then cut them out.

Lay the clothespin with the clip horizontal and glue on the bat wings. Then place the body on top of the wings. Glue on some googly eyes and you have a fun bat clip. If you want, you can also glue on a small magnet to the other side of the paper clip. Clip these fun bats everywhere and anywhere you can think of! Here's what he should look like when he's done:



### Vampire Bat

This large bat is very realistic looking and will look great suspended from your porch or from a tree in your yard. It is relatively easy to make too! Here are the supplies you will need for this bat:

- 2 large black plastic trash bags
- 2 liter plastic soda bottle
- Black electrical tape
- Rubber Band
- White plastic lid (such as from a margarine tub)
- 2 straight sticks
- Red dot stickers

To start, you will wrap one of the trash bags around the 2 liter bottle and secure it with the electrical tape. To make the bat's ears, pinch two small bunches of plastic near the cap end of the bottle. Wrap a rubber band around the bottom of each bunch. Cut some fangs out of the white plastic lid and tape them in place. Use the red dot stickers for eyes. Now you have the entire bat's body.

For the bat's wings, take the other trash bag and cut it up one side. Lay it flat and cut two large bat wings out of it. Lay one of the wings flat on the ground and place one of the sticks just above it. You may have to trim the stick to the wing's length. Tape the three points on the top of the wing to the stick with electrical tape.

Repeat for the other wing. Securely tape both wings to the sides of the bat's body. You have now created your creepy vampire bat!

To hang the bat, just nestle the sticks among the branches of a tree. If the weather is very windy, you may want to tape the wings in place so your bat won't take flight! If you want to hang it from your porch or someplace else, just weave a string through the top of the bat and secure with a knot.

### **Pop Can Bat**

This is an especially easy craft and is made from easily accessible and very cheap materials. In fact, the example we have to show you below was made by a first grader. The materials you need are:

- Black spray paint
- Glue
- White paint for eyes and mouth
- Black fun foam

- Glitter paint or glue and silver glitter
- Small black pompom
- Magnet (optional)
- Crushed soda can

First, spray paint the can black and let it dry. Then you will crush the can. Do not crush it flat. You will want the can to be elongated, so crush the bottom of the can to the back and the top of the can is crushed to the front. Touch up any spots with the black paint.

Paint on eyes, or you can use purchased googly eyes. Glue on small pompom for nose. From black craft foam, cut out triangular shaped ears and wings. Glue onto can. Outline the wings with gray glitter paint or glue and glitter.

If you want to use magnets, attach one each to the back of the wings. If you like, you could also attach a string or rubber band so the bat can be hung.

Here's what he should look like:



## Clay Pot Spider

This is an incredibly easy craft that can be done by children of all ages. You will need a small terra cotta pot, black pipe cleaners, black paint, googly eyes or white paint for eyes and mouth, hot glue gun, and clear acrylic sealer spray.

Start by wiping down the terra cotta pot with a damp cloth. Make sure it is completely clean and let it dry completely. Use the black paint to paint the entire pot black. Once the black paint is dry, you can paint on a face or glue on the googly eyes and then paint on fangs. Once it is completely dry, spray with acrylic sealer.

Cut eight pieces of pipe cleaner to about 5 inches long. Use the hot glue gun to glue four pieces on each side of the pot for the legs. After the glue is dry, bend the legs for the desired effect. Once the spider is done, it should look something like this:



## Paper Plate Spider

This craft can be done with children as young as two years old. You may have to provide some assistance with the scissors depending on the child's skill level. Supplies you will need include:

- White craft glue
- White paper plate
- Black construction paper
- Black marker
- Long piece of string
- Scissors

Start out by cutting the construction paper into eight long strips. Fold the strips back and forth onto themselves accordion style for the legs. Poke two holes through the center of the paper plate and thread string through the holes. This is how you will hang the spider.

Glue the spider legs around the edge of the paper plate – 4 on each side. Let your child use the black marker to color the entire plate black. Cut out eyes and fangs from white construction paper and glue them on for the face. You can also use purchased googly eyes if you want.

Hang from the string, and you have a fun Halloween spider decorating your home!

## Spooky Spider Gloves

This is a really cute idea for some spider decorations for your next Halloween party. For this craft, you will need a pair of black gardening gloves or work gloves, a black marker, 8 ten-inch pipe cleaners, craft glue, small Styrofoam ball (3 inches in diameter), scissors, and white fun foam.

Start by placing one pipe cleaner inside each finger of both gloves. Don't put a pipe cleaner into the thumb portion of the glove. Trim off the pipe cleaners so that they are even with the cuff. Pull the cuff of one glove halfway around the Styrofoam ball keeping the pipe cleaners on the bottom. Take the other glove and pull around the other half of the ball. Be sure both thumbs are on the same side of the ball.

Overlap the thumbs in front of the cuff and glue together. Then glue the thumbs to the cuff. When you are gluing them to the cuff, it is often easier to just pin the thumbs to the cuff before gluing and then let the glue dry and remove the pin.

Cut eyes out of fun foam and make pupils with the black marker. To make it even easier, you may want to just glue on googly eyes. Glue the eyes on just above the thumbs on the cuff. Shape the spider's legs by bending the pipe cleaners inside the gloves until it looks the way you want it to.



## Walnut Spiders

I have a walnut tree in my yard and every fall, I find myself with bags and bags of walnuts all over the yard. I always wanted to find something to do with this bounty besides just taking the meat from the inside. Here is a great idea for a party table decoration using the leftover walnut shells.

For this craft, you will need several walnut shell halves, some pipe cleaners (preferably black), black paint, clear tape or glue, white sticky labels or hole reinforcements, scissors and markers. Begin by painting the walnut shell black and let dry completely.

Attach pipe cleaners to sides of shell for spider legs. They can be attached with glue or tape. For a more permanent attachment, have an adult drill small hole in each side of the shell and poke the pipe cleaner through.

Decorate the body with eyes using the stickers or hole reinforcements and markers. Make the spiders look scary or funny. You can also attach purchased googly eyes with glue to make them fun. Then place these all over your treat table for a fun look!

## Palm Print Spider

Although this craft is easy, it can be messy which means if you are using this craft for a lot of children, be prepared to supervise them closely. But what makes this such a cool craft is that it is not only easy, but it commemorates the child's hand for years to come.

Supplies are few. All you need is a white paper plate or orange construction paper, black paint, black yarn, scissors, and white paint or googly eyes. Make sure the black paint is washable! Empty some paint onto a paper plate and have



the child place his or her hand into the paint. You will want to be sure that the entire palm is covered with paint, but not so much so that it will be “gloppy”.

Have the child press his or her hand firmly on the paper or paper plate with fingers slightly splayed out and pointing to the right. Recoat the hand and make an identical print with fingers pointing to the left. Make sure the palms overlap completely.

Once the spider is dry, you can draw on a face with white chalk or white paint or glue on googly eyes. Have the child cut the spider out in a circle pattern if working on orange construction paper. Make a hole with a hole punch at the top of the creation and hang. It should look something like this:



## **Chapter 5 - Spooky Ghosts**

### **Balloon Ghost**

For this easy craft, you need two plastic grocery bags, a white balloon, and some tape (we prefer black duct tape because it holds better!) First, take and blow up the balloon tying a knot in the end of it.

Cut off the handles of the grocery bags and any writing on the bag. Starting at the open end of the bag, cut into one inch strip up to about an inch away from the bottom of the bag where the seam is.

With the knot of the balloon at the top, tape one of the bags to the front of the ghost and one to the back. Draw a spooky face on your ghost. Use a length of string to tie around the knot for hanging. You can also use a rubber band that is cut in half for hanging as well.

### **Garbage Bag Ghosts**

Use balloons, white garbage bags (rectangle or square shaped), duct tape, and fishing line or thread. Blow up the balloon to about 6 inches. Figure out where you want your ghost to hang and cut 3 appropriate lengths of fishing line (leave yourself a little extra to play with).

Attach a piece of fishing line or thread to the top, rounded part of the balloon using plenty of duct tape. Make sure it is secure. Open the garbage bag and roll down the sides so the inside, bottom is exposed. Make a hole in the center of the bottom of the garbage bag just big enough for the fishing line or thread to fit through.

Grab the end of the fishing line that is attached to your balloon, and thread it through the hole. Pull it all the way through the hole so the bottom of the garbage

bag rests against the balloon. Roll the sides back down so the balloon is in your garbage bag. Cut a smaller piece of fishing line or thread and loosely tie it around the bag where the balloon is to hold it in place. Don't pull it tight!

Use a magic marker to make a face on the bag where the balloon is. I have also cut eye and mouth shapes out of construction paper and glued them in place. Tie or tape the other pieces of fishing line to the bottom corners of your garbage bag. These will be the ghost's arms. Hang your ghost by tying up the loose ends of the 3 pieces of fishing line!



### **Paper Mache Ghost**

Many Halloween crafts can be made from paper mache. You can make pumpkins, spiders, and even bats. Everyone should know how to do paper mache, and ghosts are especially fun to make from paper and glue. So, here's how to make a paper mache ghost. First, you'll need the following supplies:

- A long balloon
- A bowl that the end of the balloon fits in (this is just to hold the balloon while you work)
- Newspaper
- Flour and water
- A pan and a stirrer
- Scissors
- White tempera paint

- Paint brush
- A black marker

You will first need to make a thin glue. Make a simple, thin glue from flour and water. Mix 1/2 cup of flour into 1/2 cup of water until the mixture is thin and runny. Stir into 2 cups of boiling water (the heating gives the glue a nice consistency, but is not necessary). Simmer for about 3 minutes, and then cool.

Tear the newspaper into strips about one inch wide. The length doesn't matter. Blow up the balloon and tie in a knot. Place the balloon in a bowl so that is stable. Dip a strip of paper in the flour glue, wipe off the excess, and wrap the strip around the balloon.

Cover the entire top of the balloon. Have at least three layers surrounding the balloon. Let it dry (at least overnight) after each layer. Let the balloon dry completely (it may take a few days). Pop the balloon and separates it from the outer papier-mâché skin. Throw the torn balloon away. Trim the base of the ghost to form smooth scallops. Cut two holes in the ghost (these will be its eyes). Paint the ghost white. Let it dry.

You can either put the ghost on a table or hang it from the ceiling from fishing line to make a scary Halloween decoration.

As we said, paper mache can be used for many craft projects, so it is a good idea to know how to do this – especially if you are a teacher. When it comes to Cinco De Mayo, it is the perfect way to make a piñata!

## Footprint Ghost

This is a great craft for any age child and takes precious little resources to make. Not only will you have a permanent reminder of the size of your child's foot, but you will also get a great Halloween decoration that is easy to make and fun to display.

All you need for this ghost is black construction paper, white (washable) paint, and a black marker. Take a paper plate or a plastic container lid that is big enough to fit your child's foot in. Pour in the white paint, and have them step into the paint. Obviously, you will want to put down some newspaper first to protect your floor!

Then, have them stepped firmly onto the black construction paper. Press their foot down so that all of the foot is firmly planted on the paper. Then, you will need to let the paint dry completely. Use a black marker to draw on a face to your ghost where the heel print is.

If you like, you can have your child cut the ghost out into an oval, punch a hole in the top and hang it somewhere. Otherwise, just display at your discretion! Here's what it will look like:



## Ghost Bushes

This is a very simple craft that you make from a white sheet, a black marker or black fabric paint, and clothespins. This craft will surely make you the talk of the neighborhood and it is so easy to make, but, of course, you'll need some bushes to make it work!

Take a plain white sheet and fold it in half. The size of the sheet depends on the size of your bushes! Place newspaper in between the fold and then go to work making the face of your ghost. You can make it scary or fun – it's all up to you!

Once everything is completely dry, just wrap the sheet around your bush and secure in the back tightly with clothespins. After that, all you have to do is enjoy your neighbor's compliments! It should look a little something like this:



## Cool Whip Lid Ghost

It is so true that you can make Halloween decorations out of almost anything! When it comes to making ghosts, all you need is a little imagination and some motivation! Here's a great way to make a ghost out of a Cool Whip lid and some other very common objects. Supplies needed include:

- Plain white lid (from a margarine container, for example)
- 3 black construction paper circles for eyes and mouth
- 2 sheer white plastic grocery sacks
- 2 white pipe cleaners
- Scotch tape
- Glue stick
- Black yarn
- Hole punch

Start by gluing eyes and mouth on front of lid. Cut off any writing, graphics and handles from grocery sacks. Lay them on a flat surface. With scissors, shred 2" strips up sacks leaving at least a 1" area intact next to the seam. Glue the pipe cleaner/chenille stem into the seam.

Turn lid over onto a flat surface. Bend and insert the pipe cleaner/seam into the ridge around the bottom half of the lid. Tape it to secure in place. Repeat with the second sack and pipe cleaner, and insert in the ridge around the upper half of the lid.

Punch a hole through the top of the lid. Thread a length of yarn through the hole appropriate for hanging. Some kids prefer to have a loop on the end of a foot and a half so they can hold on and run with them. They "fly" nicely and appear as though the kids are being "chased" by a little ghost!

### Tissue Paper Lolly Ghost

This is such a cute craft that you can use them as party favors at your next Halloween party. The thing about these cute ghosts is that they are so easy to do and don't take a lot of supplies to get them done!

The only supplies you will need is a lollipop (Tootsie Roll Pop is fine), white tissue paper, a felt tip pen, some yarn, and some scissors. Measure the lollipop stick and cut out a piece of tissue paper that is about two times the size of the lollipop.

Wrap the tissue around the lollipop and secure at the base with the yarn. Draw a face on the tissue paper with the pen, and you are done! You can make lots of these and give them out as trick or treat prizes or just have them around for a Halloween party. They are so easy and so inexpensive to make, you can certainly afford either!

### Sheet Ghost

This is the easiest of all ghost crafts. All you need is a white sheet, a balloon, a rubber band, and a black marker. If you want to hang your ghost, you'll also need some string or a broken rubber band.

Blow up the balloon and place it inside the sheet. Draw a scary face on your ghost, and you are done! To insert string for hanging, just run a threaded needle through the top – don't pop the balloon! You can also use some string at the bottom to drape him open.

And that's it – easy as pie!



## Transparent Ghosts

Materials for this ghost include wax paper, glitter, construction paper, string, and newspaper. This is an easy enough craft for children of all ages, but an adult should be the one operating the iron!

First, take two large pieces of wax paper and put them together. Cut out a large ghost shape from the waxed paper. Coloring pages are great sources for ghost shapes. Next, cut out eyes and a ghostly shape mouth from construction.

Then, lay one ghost wax paper on a piece of newspaper. Make eyes and mouth out of construction paper. Position the eyes and mouth and sprinkle with glitter. Place the other wax paper ghost shape on top, lining up the edges.

Place another piece of newspaper on top of your ghost and iron it with an iron on medium heat. Run the iron over the newspaper until both piece of wax paper are stuck together.

Once your ghost is done, you can cut or tear vertical strips into the bottom of your ghost- this will give it a flying and floating look when you hang it. Poke a hole at the top of the ghost's head, thread through string, and hang up your creation.

## Gentleman Ghost

This adorable and inviting ghost can be made in less than an hour. Simple items from around your house and a few inexpensive craft supplies and you'll be on your way to making this dapper ghoul.

Materials needed are:

- 24" x 30" section of white sheet
- 24" square of white sheet
- white tube sock (not over the calf-too long)
- 3 buttons
- Fiberfill
- black marker
- several long strands of raffia
- 36" length of red polka-dotted ribbon
- 3-12" long chenille sticks, any color
- black film canister
- black craft paint
- thin cardboard (from shirt package or cereal box)
- small silk flower (no bigger than a quarter)
- powder blush
- tacky or hot glue
- scissors

Start by stuffing the sock with fiberfill to make head and body. Tie off bottom of sock with one of the chenille sticks. Determine the size you would like the ghost's head to be, and then wrap a chenille stick tightly around neck to create head. Using the last chenille stick, thread stick through neck stick, twist to tighten, create a loop, then tuck the ends both in and twist off. You should have a loop to hang your ghost with when through.

Using the black marker, draw on facial features (we used a dry erase marker), then carefully brush on some powder blush for cheeks.

Using a pair of sharp scissors, cut slits all around the fabric square to create a fringe appearance. Cut a 2" x 1/2" oval in the center of both the square and rectangle fabric pieces for head to slip through.

First, put red polka-dotted ribbon together with raffia strands. Place rectangular piece of fabric over ghost's head first, then layer the square piece of fabric over the top of the rectangle.

For the collar, lift 1" of the fabric up around the ghost's face and then tie with raffia/ribbon bow around both layers. Trim bow strings if you wish.

Glue buttons onto the front of the ghost's outfit. Cut a circle out of thin cardboard, about 3/4" in diameter larger than the diameter of the film canister, to create the brim of the top hat. Paint brim black, let dry. Glue film canister onto brim, let dry. Glue silk flower onto brim of hat, let dry. Once hat is dry, glue it onto the ghost's head.

Hang in hallway, entranceway, over the fireplace or on the front door.  
Here's what the finished product will look like:



## Ghost Luminaries

These are fun to make, and you can use them to light the way along your walkway toward your door to welcome trick or treaters. Kids can make these fun luminaries with very few supplies and plenty of imagination. Get started today!

Supplies needed are:

- clean, empty jars
- white acrylic paint
- black acrylic paint
- black Sharpie marker
- tea light candles or other illumination

If you aren't comfortable using candles, look in discount or craft stores for glow sticks or miniature flashlights.

Paint jars with white acrylic paint. Let dry completely then add a second coat. Let dry, preferably overnight.

Use a black Sharpie marker to draw on eyes and mouths, and then fill in with black acrylic paint. Let dry completely.

Add glow lights, tea light candles, votive candles or any other illumination and line them up along your sidewalk for a fun and spooky entrance.



## Ghost Wind Socks

These wonderful and easy porch or tree decorations float and flutter in the breeze! You can also decorate inside with them, but have a fan blowing near them to achieve the fluttering effect!

For supplies, gather together the following:

- White construction paper
- Black permanent marker
- Stapler
- White crepe paper
- Tape
- String

For each wind sock, decorate a 6-by-18-inch piece of white construction paper with ghostly eyes and a horrific mouth. Roll the construction paper to form a tube shape and staple the ends together.

Cut eight 8-foot-long strips of crepe paper and drape them over the top edge with both ends hanging down to create "tails." Secure with tape.

For a handle, cut a 30-inch piece of string and staple the ends to opposite sides of the top of the decoration. Hang everywhere! Here's what they look like:



## Scared Stiff Ghosts

These guys are so very cute and will look great decorating your front porch or inside your house. A few simple materials and poof! -- These lively fellows will appear.

Supplies needed are:

- 12” long plastic foam cone
- 4” diameter plastic foam ball
- Twigs
- Masking tape
- Plastic wrap
- White fabric
- Fabric stiffener (available at craft/discount stores)
- Plastic bag
- Purple, green, and black fabric or craft pens

Assemble a form for the ghost. Attach the foam ball to the top of the cone with a short straight twig. Use masking tape to fasten several twigs together to make arms, and then insert the arms as desired into the sides of the cone. Cover the entire shape with plastic wrap.

Cut a piece of white fabric into a square or a circle. Make sure the fabric is large enough to fully cover the form with some extra for draping.

Pour 1 cup of fabric stiffener into the plastic bag. Place the fabric piece in the bag. Squeeze the bag repeatedly to soak the fabric with stiffener. Add more stiffeners to the bag, if necessary. Remove the fabric from the bag. Lay it out on a flat surface that's covered with waxed paper. Press it with the heel of your hand to reshape the fabric so it will be easy to drape over the form.

Place the fabric over the form. Drape it to shape a ghost. Keep some of the fabric along the base so the ghost will stand by itself when it's removed from the form. Let the fabric dry.

Paint on eyes, eyebrows, and a mouth. Remove the ghost from the form. Reuse the form to make more ghosts. Here is what they will look like when they are done:



## Chapter 6 - Pumpkins

Of course, the most recognizable sign and symbol of Halloween is the pumpkin or jack-o-lantern. Most people carve their pumpkins the traditional way by removing the top, scooping out the seeds and cutting in eyes, nose, and a mouth.

But today, pumpkin carving has been elevated to an art form as more and more people are learning how to carve their pumpkins with intricate designs that can make them almost breathtaking.

### Pumpkin Carving

If you are interested in making these extremely detailed designs, we'll attempt to give you some information as to how you can do this. Most often, these designs are made from stencils. You can get stencils in many places, and the Internet is a great place to start.

You will need special tools to do these types of carvings. First, you need a carving saw which is good for intricate, detailed areas. A transfer tool is used to transfer the stencil design onto your pumpkin. Carving stencils can be drawn either freehand onto paper or use your computer to make your pattern.

Prepare the pumpkin as you would for basic carving, i.e. cut out the top hole and gut the pumpkin out. Select the paper stencil you want to use and trim the excess paper from it with scissors. Be sure to leave at least a 1/2 inch border for the tape to go on.

Attach the stencil to the face of the pumpkin with tape. Tape the top first, then the bottom and lastly the sides. You may have to crease the stencil to tape the corners, if so; try to make the creases where the pattern will be distorted the least.



Using the transfer tool, press the pointed tip into and through the design lines on the paper stencil spaced about a 1/8 of an inch apart. Complex and thin designs might require the dots to be a little closer together. The tip of the transfer tool should be pushed in just enough to go through the paper and the outer skin of the pumpkin, not all the way through the pumpkin.

It's important that you take your time when transferring the pattern from the stencil. Remember, you're making guide lines for sawing. Before you remove the stencil, look it over carefully to make sure that all the lines have been transferred clearly.

Once the paper stencil is removed you'll see the outline of the stencils pattern marked on the face of the pumpkin via little dots. Once you remove the stencil, be sure to save it in case you need to refer to it while carving.

Using the carving saw, push the tip of the saw-blade into a pattern hole and saw through the design lines with short back-and-forth motions. Basically, you're playing "connect the dots". It's important to remember that these are "saws", not knives. The saw is not used in the same way as a knife. You never cut with it, you saw with it.

Take your time and follow the pattern edges carefully. Always align the saw blade to make the cuts straight into the pumpkin. When making sharp corners, remove the saw and re-insert it at the new angle.

To make removal of the pieces easier you can cut them into smaller section while still in the pumpkin. Then carefully push out all of the cut pieces with your finger or an un-sharpened pencil.

Once you've removed all of the cut pieces, carefully trim the inside edges of the pumpkin of any excess flesh with the carving saw or a small knife. It's good to

carve the excess off at about a 45 degree angle. This allows more light to come through, showing your design to its fullest.

Remove any cut pieces that have fallen inside the pumpkin from your carving. Coat the edges with petroleum jelly to preserve your pumpkin design. And you're finished!

There are many creative ways you can carve pumpkins that everyone will remember. And don't forget to put a candle inside to light up your design.

You could also choose to paint your pumpkin instead of cutting it. This just requires you to have different colored paints and an active imagination. Make sure your paint is waterproof if you will be displaying your pumpkins outside!

There are lots of Halloween pumpkin crafts you can make too for the season. Let's look at a few!

## Hanging Pumpkins

Here's a quick and easy way to make some cute pumpkins you can hang around the house or in a classroom! All you need for this craft is orange and black felt scraps, 18 gauge wire, tacky glue, black embroidery floss, fabric or batting for stuffing.

Cut two circles from orange felt. Cut out eyes, nose, and mouth from the black felt as well as the stem for the top of the pumpkin. Glue the eyes, nose, and mouth onto the face of the pumpkin. With black floss, stitch the two circles together.

Put the stem at the top between the two pieces of fabric. Add a few tighter stitches at the bottom and the top to pucker the fabric slightly. Just before you finish it completely all the way around, insert stuffing – enough to make it slightly puffy but not hugely puffy! Then finish stitching.

Take the wire and wind it around a pencil to make a coil. Add a dab of glue to each end of the wire and push between the two pieces of felt. Press down and allow the glue to dry completely. If you like, you can reinforce the handle with a few extra stitches. And there you have your stuffed hanging pumpkin!

## Paper Plate Pumpkin

This is a super easy craft for even little kids to make. All you need is a paper plate, some orange paint or an orange marker, black and green construction paper, glue, an ice cream stick (craft stick), and some string.

Take the plate and color or paint it completely orange. Let dry. At this point, there are two ways you can approach this. You can choose to make it just a hanging pumpkin or make it into a mask. If you just want a hanging decoration, cut out eyes, nose, and a mouth from the black construction and glue on the front.

You can also make it into a fun mask by cutting out the eyes. If you like, you can also cut out the nose and mouth.

Out of the green construction paper, cut out two leaf shapes to glue at the top for the stem. If you like, you can trace your child's hand and use those as the leaves. This gives the pumpkin a personal touch and makes it really cute!

For the hanging pumpkin, punch a hole in the top, put some string through the hole, and hang! If you are making a mask you can either glue the craft stick at the bottom or punch a hole in either side of the plate and put a piece of string through each hole which you will tie at the back!



## Pumpkin Pouch

This is a great craft for teachers to use in the classroom. After the students have made their pumpkin pouches, they can hang them from their desks making it an ideal holding spot for treats and such.

You will need two paper plates – one for the base and then half of the other one for the pouch, orange construction paper or orange paint, green construction paper, and black paint or black construction paper.

Begin by stapling the half plate to the bottom of the other plate. It works best when you have the Styrofoam plates that are slightly deep to give the best pocket effect. You can also hole punch between both plates and have the child “sew” them together with orange or black yarn.

Paint or color your pumpkin orange. You can also do a modge podge technique by having the child tear the orange construction paper into pieces and then glue them on with a mixture of  $\frac{1}{2}$  water and  $\frac{1}{2}$  white glue. Let dry completely.

Cut out eyes, a nose, and a mouth from the black construction paper. You can also choose to paint these on if you want. The front of the pouch is where the mouth should go. Make a stem from the green construction paper and either glue or staple to the top.



## Soda Bottle Jack-O-Lantern

This is another easy craft for children three or older. All you need for this easy craft is an empty and clean 2 liter soda bottle with the label removed, orange paint, yellow construction paper, dark green tissue paper or green felt cut into a circle, and a bit of raffia or twine.

Paint the bottle orange. Do this by pouring paint inside the bottle and adding a little water. Put the lid back on and have the child swoosh this around and around until the entire inside is coated. Pour out the excess. Cut eyes, nose, and mouth out of yellow construction paper and glue onto the front of the bottle.

Place the tissue paper or the felt around the lid of the bottle and tie tight with the raffia or twine. And there you have a cute decoration out of a simple soda bottle!



## Chapter 7 - Other Crafts

### Creepy Crawlies

Here are some great ideas for making little decorations out of pompoms, feathers, beads, and pipe cleaners. They look great strewn out on a Halloween table at a party or hanging from a spider's web – really anything you want! Gather the following supplies:

- Assorted pompoms: 2", 1 1/2", 1", and 1/2" in black, orange, green, and white
- 1" and 1/2" pompom beads
- 12" chenille stems (pipe cleaners)
- Small feathers
- 1/4" colored pony beads or small googly eyes
- Black seed beads
- Tacky glue

**BIG SPIDER:** Glue a 1 1/2" pompom to a 2" pompom for head and body. Add two 1" pompoms side by side on head and glue a bead eye to each. For legs, wrap a straight chenille stem around middle of 4 bump stems held together. Glue under body. Spread out legs and bend them up near body and down at center for joints.

**FAT SPIDERS:** Glue a 1 1/2" black pompom head to a 2" black or colored pompom body. Glue bead eyes to head. Glue a feather between head and body, or a spiral of 9" chenille to back. For short legs, cut 2 bump chenille stems in half. Glue centers side by side under body; bend down. For long legs, hold 4 black 12" chenille stems together and wrap a chenille scrap around center. Glue under body. Bend knees. Curl 1/2" ends outward around a pencil for feet.

**SNAKES:** Slide small or gradually larger pompom beads onto a chenille stem. Add larger pompom for head. Cover 1/2" of chenille at tail end with small black beads or glitter. Glue on bead eyes. For optional tongue, fold 2" chenille stem in half; glue to face.

**CATERPILLAR:** String five purple 1" pompom beads and one 1 1/2" (head) on chenille stem. Glue 1/2" pompom to top of each small one and two 1/2" pompoms side by side to top of head. Glue on bead eyes. For legs, fold five 2" chenille stems in half; glue one each over central stem between pompoms.

**DADDY LONGLEGS:** Cut 6" boa and glue ends together to form a pouf. Glue eyes to edge. For legs, overlap 1" ends of 8 black 12" stems (4 each side) and wrap centers together with another stem. Glue under pouf. Separate legs; bend knees and feet.

**SCORPION:** String four 1" pompom beads on 4" stem for body. Glue a 2" pompom to one end for head. Glue on 1/2" pompom eyes and mouth. Trim mouth to point. Add bead eyes. For tail, glue on bump chenille; curl end. For legs, fold 3 straight stems in half; glue one each over central stem between pompoms. Bend joints.





## Popsicle Stick Mummies

These are not only easy to make, but they are fun too. With a little adult supervision, even young children can make these cute little decorations! Here are the supplies you need:

- Large Popsicle sticks
- Gauze
- Black puff paint
- Small wiggle eyes
- Glue

Cut one stick in half width-wise so that you have two short fat sticks. Cut one of the halves and cut it in half length-wise. Take another stick and cut it in half length-wise. This gives you the body, arms and legs.

Take the short fat stick and glue the 2 short skinny sticks to the sides for arms. Glue the 2 long skinny sticks on for legs.

Now take your gauze and wrap him from head to toe! You can cut the gauze in half to make it easier for younger children to work with.

When the glue has dried take the black puff paint and make 2 dots for eyes, placing the wiggle eyes into the paint while it is still wet to give a great sunken eye look!

## Cat and Ghost Streamers

These little guys are so cute and easy to make. This project is easy to make in a little bit of time and look great when they are hung in a place where a slight breeze can blow them about. Here's what you'll need:

- Metal cat or ghost hanging bell (you can find these in most craft or discount stores)
- Black or white fabric
- Pinking shears
- Hot glue gun
- Ribbon, wide width
- Ribbon, narrow width

Cut streamers out of the fabric, about two inches wide and twice as long as you want the length. Hot glue the middle of one streamer on the bottom of the cat or ghost bell. Take another streamer and turn it so it forms a cross when the streamers overlap on the bottom of the bell. Glue in place. Repeat for remaining streamers.

Take a piece of the wide ribbon gather all the streamers together below the bell and tie a bow. Take a piece of the narrow ribbon and tie a bow above the other bow (optional). If desired, run a piece of narrow ribbon through the hole at the top of the bell and knot in place.

Hang and enjoy!



## Trick or Treat Witch

Bring a smile to the face of your neighborhood ghouls with this trick-or-treat witch. For kids this craft will require patience and some supervision, but the finished results are worth it. Here are the supplies you will need:

- Block of wood cut into long slender triangle shapes
- Pencil
- Craft paints in black, white, peach, burgundy, and white
- Paintbrushes
- Sponge, optional
- Black crepe paper
- Olive green paper twist
- Masking tape (or black electrical tape)
- Black permanent marker

Use a pencil to draw the shape of the face on the wood and then draw the square shape of the sign on the wood. Paint black around the outside of the face and sign. Be sure to paint the back. Let dry.

Paint the face peach. Let dry. Draw the facial features on with the black marker. Using a paintbrush or sponge, paint the cheeks.

Use the marker to draw the fingers holding the sign and paint the fingers peach. Paint the sign white. Let dry. Using the marker, write any message you want on the sign and decorate as desired. Randomly paint stars using white paint on the hat and the dress.

Unroll paper twist. Cut into long, thin strips. Using masking tape (or black electrical tape), tape the hair into place. Cut the bangs to length desired. Cut a

circle out of black crepe paper, and cut a slit in the middle of the hat. Slip the hat over the top of the witch.

Take a length of paper twist and wrap around the top of the hat. Tape or glue in place. Put your witch right by the door either outside or inside and enjoy!



## **Chapter 8 - Outside Decorations**

When you are decorating for Halloween, many people get as crazy as they do at Christmas when it comes to decorating their yards. It can be really fun seeing what your neighbors come up with for their Halloween decorations, but it can be even more fun seeing what your own imagination can do. We have a few ideas to show you!

### **Tombstones**

These can be made in a couple of ways. You could get some wood and use a jigsaw to cut them into the shape of a rounded tombstone. Then get some black and gray paint to paint them. Use white or black paint – depending on which you used to paint: white for black background and black for gray background – and write funny sayings about your family.

You can also just put your family's individual names and R.I.P. (rest in peace) or something like that. Use your imagination and be creative. To insert them in the ground, all you need to do is get long screws and screw them into the bottom of the tombstone leaving a large part of it sticking out. Then they can go into the ground and not fall over.

You can also do the same thing with heavy duty cardboard and make them the same way. If you use heavy duty cardboard, make sure you spray them with a sealant to keep them from collapsing in wet weather.

To put in the ground, all you need to do is cut a wire hanger into pieces and insert into the cardboard leaving a portion of the wire sticking out. Then push them into the ground to secure.

You can also experiment around with other materials like Styrofoam, moldable plastic, and anything else you think might work. It's all up to you since these are easy and fun to have in the yard.



Some ways to make your tombstones look like they are in a graveyard are easily made with things you can find around the yard. Of course, you could make a small mound of dirt in front of the tombstone. You can also use some mulch spread out over a large black trash bag which will provide a nice, musty smell to go along with the Halloween sights and sounds.

Lighting of your tombstones can make a big difference. You want passers-by to see your graveyard, so put out a few lights to highlight your creativity. Insert a directional light fixture (with a blue light) 8 -12 inches in front of the tombstone. Cover the back of the light fixture with aluminum foil so that it won't reflect back on the viewers. The aluminum foil is spray painted brown and covered with mulch to hide the fixture.

Adorn the grave with dead flowers, fake hands, spiders, monster masks on wig heads or other spooky items. Be sure to have some spider webs around the tombstones. You can buy these in spray form at many discount stores. In fact,

dead flowers can really make your “graveyard” special, so be on the lookout in your own yard as well as others for flowers that have withered and died.

Make sure you get permission to take the flowers. You can also check with local florists to see if they have any dying flowers they want to get rid of.

If you are really brave, you can dumpster dive for these flowers, but don't get caught. This is illegal, so we don't condone this. But, on the down low, it's a great way to get some really great dying flowers to really give your graveyard the authenticity it deserves!

### **Ring Around the Ghosties**

This is a really neat looking craft and pretty easy to make with materials you can find around the house, for the most part. They look especially good when circling a central pole, such as a tree or lamppost.

Here are the materials you will need:

- 6 wooden dowels
- Small white garbage bags
- Newspaper
- Masking tape
- Old white sheets
- String
- Black permanent marker

Cut your dowels to the height you'd like your ghosts to be. They can be any size from toddler height which is quite cute to larger than life which is quite spooky! Remember: the larger the ghosts, the more sheets you'll need to use.

To make a ghost head, stuff a small white garbage or paper bag with crumpled newspaper or leaves to the size you like. Push one of the dowels into the bag, and then wrap masking tape around the neck to secure. Repeat for the rest of the ghosts.

Drape a sheet (or half a sheet, if you're making small ghosts) over each head and tie a piece of string around each neck. You may need to experiment with cutting your sheets to the right size; here, we used a queen-size sheet for each ghost and rounded the bottom edges to the desired length.

Use permanent black markers to draw a face on each ghost.

Gather your ghosts around the tree or pole -- with a foot or two between each one -- and push the dowels into the earth so that the sheets touch the ground. Angle the ghosts so that they are leaning slightly backward, and then knot the corners of the sheets together as if the ghosts were holding hands.





## Spooky Giant Spider

This craft will take a trip to the local hardware store for supplies, but it will be well worth your time! Make a couple of them and hang them on your house as if they were attacking you! Here are the supplies you need:

- Craft knife
- Empty, clean gallon milk jug
- Black duct tape
- Four 6-foot black foam pipe insulation tubes 1/2" in diameter
- 2 plastic eggs (from Easter)
- Green tape

Use a craft knife (adults only) to cut off the spout of the milk jug and completely cover the jug with black duct tape. To create the 8 legs, tape the center of each of the 4 pipe insulation tubes across the handle side of the jug. Tape the tubes to the sides of the jug as well, to keep them bent.

With scissors, cut and remove a 1-inch-deep notch from the middle of each leg, then bend the insulation at the notches and tape the bent joints in place. For eyes, stick black tape pupils on the 2 broader ends of a pair of plastic eggs. Tape the eyes in place on the jug.

Finally, decorate the top of the spider body with green duct tape, and your oversize arachnid is ready to tape or tie in place on a front porch or door. This looks especially good with purchased spider web that you can get at most discount stores or craft stores.



## Trash Bag Tarantula

This huge spider looks great in your yard and is easily made from the inevitable leaves that have fallen from your trees. If you've ever wanted to find a use for those leaves, this is a great way to bag them up and make your yard look fun for Halloween.

Supplies needed are:

- 18 large black trash bags
- Leaves or newspaper
- Black electrical tape
- Large red plastic party cups
- Clothesline (optional)

To create the spider's body, stuff one trash bag full of dry leaves (you can also use crumpled newspaper). Tie the bag closed, then flip it upside down. To make the head, stuff a second bag (not as full as the first), tie it closed, and tape it to the body.

To make one of the legs, roll up two garbage bags together lengthwise. Wrap them with electrical tape at both ends and at two points along the leg to make joints. Roll up seven more legs, then cut four small slits in each side of the spider's body and slip the legs in place.

Cut the white lip off two of the red plastic cups, and tape them onto the spider's body to make his beady red eyes. For the fangs, cut two triangles out of the third plastic cup (or another piece of white plastic) and tape them onto the spider so that the white side faces up.

Perch the spider atop a big pile of relatively dry leaves. To create a web for her, simply weave and tie lengths of clothesline or twine across your porch. For an extra scary effect, tie a few unlucky stuffed animals to her web. You can also buy pre-made webs at the store.



## **Chapter 9 - Edible Crafts**

What can be better than making a craft project and then being able to eat it? These crafts are especially fun to make at children's Halloween parties or for your school Halloween party. These edible Halloween crafts aren't exactly nutritious, but they are certainly fun and yummy!

### **Edible Brains**

- 6 ounce package blueberry Jell-o mix
- 16 ounce carton small curd cottage Cheese
- 16 1/2 ounce can blueberries in syrup

Prepare Jell-o according to package directions. Chill until firm. Scoop cottage cheese into a bowl. Drain and set aside the syrup from the blueberries. Add the berries to the cottage cheese and mix well.

Add food coloring to turn the cottage cheese a nice grayish color when blended.

To serve put a couple of spoonfuls of Jell-o (congealed brain fluid) on a plate, some of the syrup on that, and a scoop of the cottage cheese & blueberry mix (brain matter) on top. Serves six.

## Chocolate Orange Ooze Cupcakes

- 8 Ounces Cream cheese softened
- 1 Egg
- 1/3 Cup Sugar
- Yellow and red food coloring
- 1 package chocolate cake mix

Prepare cake mix as directed on box for cupcakes, until it comes to baking. To make filling: Combine cream cheese, egg and sugar. Blend in 2 drops yellow food coloring and 1 drop red food coloring, adding more coloring if necessary to reach desired shade.

Fill cupcake liners half full with cupcake batter, then place 1 teaspoon filling at center of each. As cupcake bakes, the batter will rise to surround the filling. Bake at 350 for approx. 25 minutes.

## Deviled Eyeballs

- 12 eggs, hard-cooked, cooled and peeled
- 24 green olives stuffed with pimientos
- Miracle Whip or mayonnaise
- Mustard

Half eggs lengthwise, take out yolks. Mix yolks, some miracle whip and mustard until you have a smooth paste. Spoon this mixture back into the eggs. Add one olive to the center of the mixture in the egg.

## Edible Fingers

- 5 hot dogs
- 1 package refrigerated biscuit dough
- 10 sliced almonds

Preheat oven to the temperature on the biscuit package. Separate biscuit dough into individual pieces. Roll and stretch a biscuit until flat.

Cut each hot dog in half. Lay a half of hot dog in the center of a flattened biscuit and roll dough around the hot dog until it is enclosed in the biscuit. Place wrapped hot dog on a cookie sheet. Repeat these steps until you have 10 wrapped hot dogs, aka "fingers".

Place a sliced almond at one end of each wrapped hot dog so it looks like a fingernail. You can also use a toothpick to make knuckle lines. Bake your fingers for about 10 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm with some ketchup (blood) at the severed end.

## Dirt and Worms

- Softened Chocolate Ice Cream
- Chocolate Cookie Crumbs
- Gummy Worms

Fill 9 ounce plastic cups about 3/4 of the way full with softened chocolate ice cream. Top with about 1/4 inch of chocolate cookie crumbs. Place gummy worms in the "dirt" and eat!

## Finger Pizza

- 1 red bell pepper
- 12 mozzarella sticks
- 1 COOKED pizza crust
- Pizza sauce

Spread pizza sauce on cooked crust. Form fingers by slicing mozzarella sticks in half lengthwise, then width wise. Put a notch in the rounded tip. Cut pepper lengthwise and then again width wise, so it looks like a fingernail.

Arrange cheese (fingers) on pizza crust and place fingernails in the notch. Heat until cheese just starts to melt.

## Squashed Frogs

- 1 Stick margarine
- 40 Large marshmallows (10 oz. bag)
- 5 Cups corn flakes cereal
- 1/2 Teaspoon vanilla (optional)
- 2 Teaspoons green food coloring
- M&Ms. Plain Chocolate Candy

Melt margarine in large saucepan. Add marshmallows and cook over low heat, stirring constantly until melted and mixture is syrupy. Remove from heat. Add vanilla and food color. Mix. Add corn flakes and M&Ms and mix until well coated and bright green. Drop from a tablespoon on a peice of wax paper and cool the globs.

## Spider Cookies

- 2 Chocolate Wafer Cookies
- Chocolate Frosting
- Mini Chocolate Chips or M&Ms
- Black Lace Licorice

Spread the chocolate frosting on the flat side of each cookie. Cut a piece of licorice into 8 pieces about 2 - 3 inches long. Stick the licorice on the frosting on one of the cookies so they look like the spider's legs sticking out (4 sticking out on each side).

Then put the other cookie, frosting side down on top of it to hold the "spider legs" in place.

Using the frosting as your "glue", add 2 eyes using the chocolate chips or M&Ms and enjoy!

## Banana Ghosts

Remove any stringy fibers from the peeled banana, then cut it in half widthwise. Push a Popsicle stick into each half through the cut end, then cover each pop with plastic wrap and freeze until firm (about 3 hours).

Next, place a 1.5-ounce piece of white chocolate candy in a microwave-safe bowl and cook on high until melted (it generally takes about 1 minute). With a butter knife, spread the melted white chocolate on the frozen banana halves.

Set the pops on a waxed-paper-covered dish. Press on candies or currants for eyes and mouths and return the pops to the freezer until ready to serve. Makes 2.



## **Bat Chips**

- 1 large flour tortilla per person
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Salt

Preheat your broiler. Using Halloween cookie cutters, cut each tortilla into bat and ghost shapes. Lightly brush both sides of each creature with oil. Arrange on a cookie sheet or jelly roll pan. Broil and flip once when they begin to brown. When brown on both sides, lightly sprinkle with salt.

These go great with Monster Brains:

## **Monster Brains**

- 2 ripe, dark-skinned avocados (must be soft to the touch)
- 5 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 10 sprigs fresh cilantro (washed and chopped)
- 4 tablespoons medium-spicy chunky salsa
- Salt and freshly-ground pepper

Cut the avocados in half lengthwise and remove the pits. Using a spoon or a fork, scoop out the meat from the skin and place it in a large mixing bowl. Use a fork to mash the avocado meat until only a few lumps remain. Stir in the cheese, cilantro and salsa. Add salt and pepper to taste. Makes enough for 10 small brain-eaters or 5 large ones.

## **“Hand-Y Halloween Treats**

- Clear plastic gloves
- Candy corn or Hot Tamales candy
- Popcorn
- Orange and black ribbon
- Plastic spider rings

Stuff a piece of candy corn in each finger of the clear plastic glove to resemble fingernails. If you wish, you can use the Hot Tamales candy instead to resemble painted fingernails. Fill it with popcorn (no butter!). Tie it at the wrist with orange and black ribbon. Place a plastic spider ring on one of the fingers.

## **Witch’s Brooms**

- Roll of Fruit by the Foot
- Thin pretzels

For each one, cut a 2-inch length from a roll of Fruit by the Foot. With the shorter ends on the side, fringe the bottom of the strip (leaving a 1/4-inch border uncut along the top) to create thin broom bristles. Then moisten the upper edge of the fruit with a drop of water and tightly wrap it around one end of a thin pretzel-stick broom handle.

## **Fake Snot**

- 1/2 cup water
- 3 packages unflavored gelatin
- Light corn syrup

Heat water until it just starts to boil and remove from heat. Sprinkle in gelatin. Let it soften a few minutes and stir with a fork. Add enough corn syrup to make 1 cup of thick “glop”. Stir with fork and lift out the long strands of gunk. If it thickens too much, add more water.

## **Chapter 10 - Costume Crafts**

You can make some really cute Halloween costumes and not have to purchase pre-made outfits. Homemade Halloween costumes are cute and can really show some creativity as you utilize things that you probably already have around the house! Here are a few to try out:

### **Frog**

- Solid green outfit or sweat suit
- Headband
- Green felt
- Scissors
- Glue
- Very large wiggle eyes

Cut a piece of felt to cover the headband. Note: Glue felt to felt if you want to be able to slip the decoration off and use the headband later.

Cut 4 ovals out of felt. Glue 2 together to create some strength to the felt. Repeat for other 2 ovals. Glue wiggle eyes on one end of the oval.

Glue the oval's opposite end to the underside of the headband. Repeat for other oval.

Dress your child in the green outfit and put on the headband. Then they can “hoppily” go trick or treating!

## Beautiful Butterfly

- Black leotard or turtleneck
- Black leggings or sweatpants
- 2 chenille stems or pipe cleaners
- Headband
- White poster board (use orange for a Monarch butterfly)
- Newspaper
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Colored cover stock, tissue paper, construction paper, markers, or glitter as desired
- Glue
- 1" wide ribbon

For the body, use a black leotard or turtleneck with black leggings or sweatpants.

For the antennae, wrap two pipe cleaners around a headband. If desired, curl the pipe cleaners around a pencil or finger.

For the butterfly wings, use a sheet of white poster board. Draw a butterfly pattern on a sheet of newspaper and transfer to the poster board. Cut out the butterfly shape and decorate as desired.

You could use colored cover stock cut into the shape of flowers, but tissue paper, construction paper, markers or glitter could also be used. Note: For a monarch butterfly, use an orange poster board and black marker or construction paper. Let glue dry.

To attach the wings, cut four sets of two slits in the poster board wings. The slits should be about an inch long and an inch apart, two sets near the top of the wings, and two sets about twelve to fourteen inches below.

Thread a length of inch-wide ribbon through the slits to form shoulder straps, with the ends of the ribbon through the bottom slits. Try the wings on the child, adjust the shoulder straps to fit, and tie off the ribbon.

## **Grapes**

Not only is this costume super easy, it's super fast and your child can help decorate it him or herself!

- Sweat suit in green or purple
- Balloons in green or purple
- Small safety pins

Blow up the balloons and fasten them all over the top with the safety pins going through the knot of the balloon. Try to find a purple stocking cap to top off this cute costume! That's it!

## Duck

First, you'll need to make a duck hat. Here's how you do that:

- Yellow baseball cap
- Orange felt
- Scissors
- 2 large wiggle eyes
- Hot glue gun and fabric glue sticks

Cut out two pieces of orange felt that fit on the bill of the hat. Glue one of the pieces completely to the top. Glue the other piece under the bill only on the side edges so that it will hang down under the bill of the hat. Glue the two wiggle eyes just above the bill of the hat.

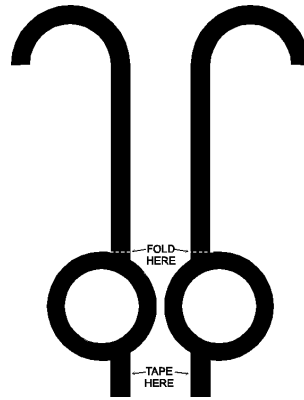
For the body of the costume, dress your child in a yellow sweat suit and orange shoes. You can buy plain white shoes pretty cheaply in discount stores and then use an orange marker or orange craft paint to color them.

If you want your duck to have a tail, just cut one out of orange poster board or make a fluffy tail from large pompom balls.

## Harry Potter

Nothing's hotter right now than Harry Potter. Why not let your little one dress up as this mystical boy?

Start by making his glasses. Here's the pattern to cut out of poster board:



Tape the two pieces together at the bridge of the nose with black electrical tape. Cut two pieces of clear cellophane or plastic wrap and glue to the inside of the glasses with a glue stick.

For his costume, here's what you'll need:

- Black robe
- Broomstick
- Black permanent marker
- Cauldron with handle
- Black witches hat
- Face paint
- Glasses

Buy a black robe and witches hat, found in the Halloween Costume section of your local department store or at a Costume store. You can also make your own witch's hat by using black poster board and making a cone and a brim and attaching together with black electrical tape.

Write "Firebolt" on a broomstick with marker. Use a cauldron as the trick or treat bag. You can usually find these in discount stores in the Halloween section. Use face paint to draw a lightning scar on the forehead.

### **Lego Block**

- Cardboard box (big enough for child to fit inside)
- Craft paint in red, yellow, blue, or white
- Solo cups in color to match paint
- Tacky glue or hot glue
- Paintbrush
- Sweat suits in matching color
- Spray paint in matching color
- Old tennis shoes or white inexpensive shoes
- Stapler
- Elastic, very thin
- Scissors

Paint the cardboard box in the color desired. Let dry. Glue the cups onto the box to look like a LEGO brick.

Staple one end of the elastic on the lip of a cup. Place the cup on the child's head. Stretch the elastic under the chin and meet up at the opposite side of the cup. Check the comfort level for the child and then carefully staple the elastic to the cup. Remove the cup from the child's head, and cut off the excess elastic.



Spray paint an old pair of shoes to match the costume. Let dry. Dress the child in matching sweats, the LEGO brick, the shoes, and the "hat" (cup).

## **Conclusion**

When it comes to making Halloween crafts, you should just let your imagination do its best and explore your creativity. You never know what you can come up with if you just try. And even if your idea doesn't work, at least you will have learned something.

Crafting is a great way to show children they, too, can be creative and make works of art that they can be proud of. When crafting with children, they don't have to produce perfect projects. Some of the best parts of children's crafts are the nuances that make them unique and all their own.

You don't have to have a lot of experience to make some great Halloween crafts and it doesn't have to cost a lot of money either. What you do need is the desire and the creativity to go for it and make your projects your own.

These craft ideas are perfect for doing in your home or for teachers to do in their classrooms. If you are going to be doing these projects for large groups of children, elicit help from home for supplies. Most parents are willing to contribute supplies and then enjoy the outcome!

Use these crafts for Halloween parties as well. Many people celebrate Halloween with parties in their homes, and if you are going to have a houseful, you'll want to be sure your home evokes the scariness and symbols of the season!

The friend I mentioned at the beginning of this book has perfected the “art” of Halloween decorating as well as Halloween crafting. I’ve learned a lot from her and a lot of the ideas in this book came from her. Often, she just comes up with things off the top of her head. You can do that too. The sky’s the limit when it comes to crafting!

So gather your glue, glitter, pipe cleaners, and other supplies and get started today. You don’t have to spend a lot of money to make Halloween crafts, as we’ve shown you. Now get to crafting!

**Thank you! For purchasing this e-book**