

Gospel Light's

REALLY BIG BOOK

OF

COOL CRAFTS FOR KIDS



Over 200 Craft Projects
for Ages 4 to 12

CD-ROM included!

- 11 Kid-Appealing Themes, including Around the World, Bible Verse, God's Kingdom and MORE!
- Age and Time Guidelines provided
- Conversation ideas provided to enrich craft times

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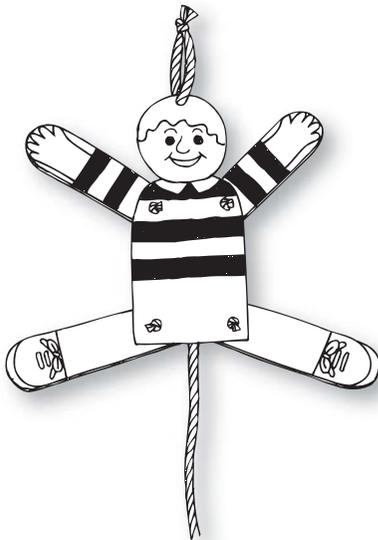
introduction

Crafts are an excellent way for children to express their creativity while they build relationships with others. When children are focused on using their hands to create a project, they are often more relaxed, willing to talk and eager to listen than they might be in formal classroom settings. As children create their crafts, look for times when you can talk about the ways God shows His love to us. Ask open-ended ("What do you think?") kinds of questions. Listen with interest to the answers and give them opportunities to ask questions of their own. We hope that you and your students will enjoy not only your creativity but also the relationships you build as you complete projects together.

PERSONALIZE IT!

Feel free to alter the craft materials and instructions in this book to suit your children's needs. Consider what materials you have on hand, what materials are available in your area and what materials you can afford to purchase. In some cases, you may be able to substitute materials you already have for the suggested craft supplies.

In addition, don't feel confined to the crafts marked for a particular age. You may want to



adapt a craft for younger or older children by using the simplification or enrichment ideas where provided.

THREE KEYS TO SUCCESS

How can you make craft time successful and joyful? First, encourage creativity in each child! Always remember that for a child, the process of creating is more important than what the final product may look like to an adult! Provide a variety of materials with which children may work so they may make creative choices on their own. Don't insist that children "stay inside the lines" or make their projects "look just like the sample."

Second, choose projects that are appropriate for the skill level of your children. Children may become discouraged when a project is too difficult for them. Finding the right projects for your children increases the likelihood that they will be successful and satisfied with their finished products.

Finally, show an interest in the unique way each child approaches a project. Avoid the temptation to say, "That's cute." Instead, affirm the choices he or she has made during the process ("I see you like to paint with blue, Lily." "You really used lots of circles, Jed.") Treat each child's work as a masterpiece! The comments you give a child today can affect the way he or she views art in the future, so be positive! Being creative is part of being made in the image of God, the ultimate creator!

CRAFT AGE LEVELS

Many of the craft projects are appropriate for more than one age level. Under the titles, you'll find the age-level designations shown. As you select projects, consider the particular children you are working with. Feel free to use your own ideas to make projects simpler or

more challenging depending on the needs of your children.

BE PREPARED

If you are planning to use crafts with a child at home, here are some helpful tips:

- Focus on crafts designed for your child's age, but don't ignore projects for older or younger ages. Elementary-age children enjoy many of the projects geared for preschool and kindergarten children. And younger children are always interested in doing "big kid" things. Just plan on working along with your child, helping with tasks he or she can't handle alone.
- Start with projects that call for materials you have around the house. Make a list of items you do not have so you can gather them.
- If certain materials seem too difficult to obtain, a little thought can usually lead to appropriate substitutions. Often your creative twist ends up being an improvement over the original plan.

If you are planning to lead a group of children in doing craft projects, keep these hints in mind:

- Choose projects that allow children to work with a variety of materials.
- Make your project selections far enough in advance to allow time to gather all needed supplies.
- Make a sample of each project to be sure you understand the directions so you can avoid potential problems. You may want to adapt some projects by simplifying procedures or varying the materials.



• Items can often be acquired as donations from people or businesses if you plan ahead and make your needs known. Some items might be brought in by the children themselves. Many churches distribute lists of needed materials to their congregations for fulfillment, as well.

• In making your supply list, distinguish between items needed for each individual child and those that will be shared among a group.

• Keep in mind that some materials may be shared among more than one age level. To avoid frustration, coordinate with other groups who might be using the same supplies you need so that children can complete their craft projects. Basic supplies that are used in many projects, such as glue, scissors, markers, etc., should be available at all times.

CRAFTS WITH A MESSAGE

Many projects can easily become crafts with a message. Invite older children to create slogans or poetry that they may write on their projects. Write out the words younger children dictate to you; make photocopies or invite them to copy words as they are interested. You may also wish to provide photocopies of an appropriate poem, thought or Bible verse for children to attach to their crafts.

CONVERSATION

Each craft in this book provides sample conversation that is designed to help you enhance craft times with thought-provoking, age-appropriate conversation. The conversation for a project may relate to a biblical principle, to a Scripture verse or to a Bible story. It may include interesting facts related to the craft. If your craft program includes large groups of children, share these conversation suggestions with each helper so he or she can use them with individuals or small groups. Because children are absorbed in their work and their ears and minds are uncluttered, use this time to its greatest potential—keep the conversation going!

USING A CRAFT CENTER AND COORDINATOR

The projects in this book can be done in individual classrooms or in a Craft Center.

Making a Craft Center Work

- ★ Select projects that will appeal to several age levels. (Sometimes you'll find one project that all children will enjoy making. Other times you'll need to select one project for the younger children and one for the older children.)
- ★ Recruit adults and/or youths to prepare for and lead the Craft Center.
- ★ Decorate your center with samples of crafts your kids will be making.
- ★ As groups visit the Craft Center, lead them in making projects, tailoring instructions and conversation to the children's age level.

The Craft Coordinator— A Very Important Person

As Craft Coordinator, you play a key role in determining the quality of your craft program. Here are four crucial steps in achieving success at your task:

1. Plan ahead. Familiarize yourself with each day's craft project and plan any necessary changes.
2. Be well organized.
3. Secure your supplies in advance. Prepare a bulletin notice listing items you need donated from members of your congregation. Also, people are often happy to help if you personally ask them to donate or purchase specific items.
4. Communicate with everyone involved. People who do not know what to do may not ask for help.

HELPFUL HINTS

Using Glue with Young Children

Since preschoolers have difficulty using glue bottles effectively, try one of the following procedures. Purchase glue in large containers (up to one gallon size).

- a. Pour small amounts of glue into margarine tubs.
- b. Dilute glue by mixing a little water into each container.
- c. Children use paintbrushes to spread glue on their projects.
- d. When project is completed, place lids on margarine tubs to save glue for future projects.

OR

- a. Pour small amounts of glue into several margarine tubs.
- b. Give each child a cotton swab.
- c. Children dip cotton swabs into the glue and rub glue on projects.
- d. When project is completed, place lids on margarine tubs to save glue for future projects.

Cutting with Scissors

When cutting with scissors is required for crafts, remember that some children in your class may be left-handed. It is very difficult for a left-handed person to cut with right-handed scissors. Have available two or three pairs of left-handed scissors. These can be obtained from a school supply center.

If your craft involves cutting fabric, felt or ribbon, have available several pairs of fabric scissors for older children.

Using Paints

Paints are required for some projects. Our suggestions:

- ★ Provide smocks or old shirts for your children to wear, as paints may stain clothes.
- ★ Some paints like acrylics can be expensive for a large group of children. To make paint go further, dilute it with a small amount of water. Or use house paints thinned with water.
- ★ Fill shallow containers with soapy water. Clean paintbrushes before switching colors and immediately after finishing project.

LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST

One of the greatest privileges of serving in children's ministry is to help children become members of God's family. Pray for the children you know. Ask God to prepare them to understand and receive the good news about Jesus and to give you the sensitivity and wisdom to communicate effectively and to be aware as opportunities occur.

Because children are easily influenced to follow the group, be cautious about asking for group decisions. Instead, offer opportunities to talk and pray individually with any child who expresses interest in becoming a member of God's family—but without pressure. A good way to guard against coercing a child to respond is to simply ask, "Would you like to hear more about this now or at another time?"

When talking about salvation with children, use words and phrases they understand; never assume they understand a concept just because they can repeat certain words. Avoid symbolic terms that will confuse these literal-minded thinkers. (You may also use the evangelism booklet *God Loves You!*) Here is a simple guideline:

1. God wants you to become His child. Why do you think He wants you in His family? (See 1 John 3:1.)
2. Every person in the world has done wrong things. The Bible word for doing wrong is

"sin." What do you think should happen to us when we sin? (See Romans 6:23.)

3. God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. Because Jesus never sinned, He is the only One who can take the punishment for your sin. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 4:14.)

4. Are you sorry for your sin? Tell God that you are. Do you believe Jesus died for your sin and then rose again? Tell Him that, too. If you tell God you are sorry for your sin and believe that Jesus died to take your sin away, God forgives you. (See 1 John 1:9.)

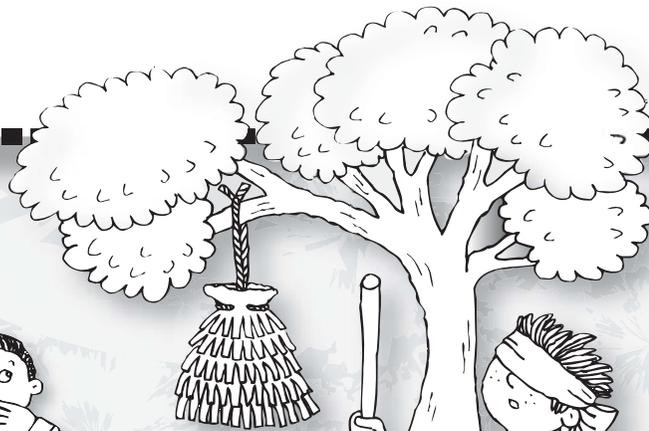
5. The Bible says that when you believe Jesus is God's Son and is alive today, you receive God's gift of eternal life. This gift makes you a child of God. (See John 3:16.) This means God is with you now and forever.

There is great value in encouraging a child to think and pray about what you have said before responding. Encourage the child who makes a decision to become a Christian to tell his or her parents. Give your pastor and the child's Sunday School teacher(s) his or her name. A child's initial response to Jesus is just the beginning of a lifelong process of growing in the faith, so children who make decisions need to be followed up to help them grow. The discipling booklet *Growing as God's Child* (available from Gospel Light) is an effective tool to use.



Around The World

Here are crafts with an international flavor that can help you experience other cultures and traditions!



Around the World

AFRICAN MESSAGE POCKET (15-20 MINUTES)

EARLY CHILDHOOD • YOUNGER ELEMENTARY

Materials: Yarn or leather lacing, crayons, hole punch, transparent tape, scissors, measuring stick. For each child—one 6x9-inch (15x22.5-cm) manila envelope, four wooden beads.

Preparation: Cut off 2 inches (5 cm) from the top of each manila envelope (sketch a). Punch six evenly spaced holes along both sides of envelope (sketch b). Cut yarn or leather lacing into 4-yard (1.2-m) lengths—one for each child. Wrap a piece of tape around one end of each yarn or leather lacing piece and tie a knot at other end.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:

- ★ Use crayons to draw designs or nature scenes on both sides of envelope.
- ★ Slide two beads onto yarn or leather lacing piece just above knot (sketch c). Thread yarn through holes on both sides of envelope, leaving a large loop at the top (sketch d). Slide two beads onto

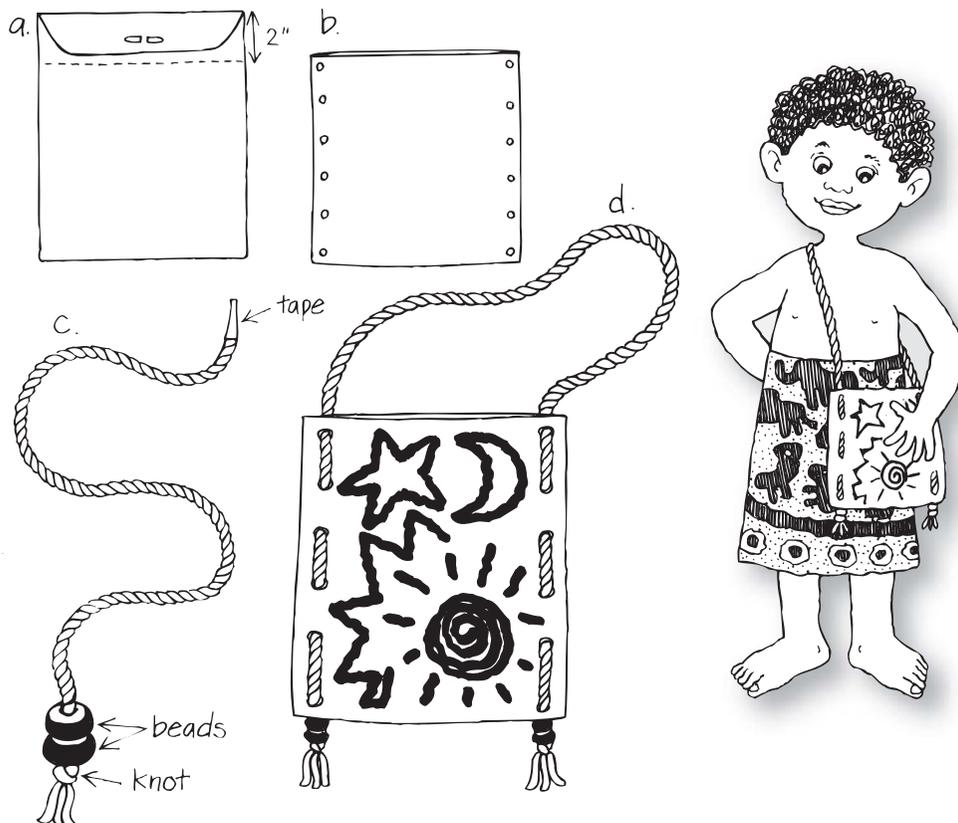
remaining end of yarn and, with teacher's help, tie a knot to secure.

- ★ Wear Message Pocket on shoulder or attach to belt loops.

Enrichment Idea: Older children can punch own holes in envelopes.

Conversation:

Optional: Show Africa on a map. **In some parts of Africa people wear traditional clothing that consists of a piece of cloth wrapped around the body. The cloth has no buttons, zippers or pockets, like our shirts or pants do, they carry pockets. What will you put in your Message Pocket? Write a kind note to a family member and place it in your Message Pocket. Deliver the message to him or her today!**



Around the World

ALL-AMERICAN WIND TUBE

(20-25 MINUTES)

OLDER ELEMENTARY

Materials: Red, white and blue construction paper; red, white and blue crepe paper streamers; string; hole punches; craft knife; glue; scissors; measuring stick. For each child—one half-gallon round ice cream container without lid.

Preparation: Use craft knife to cut bottom off of each container. Cut red and blue construction paper into 6x9-inch (15x22.5-cm) rectangles—one of each color for each child. Cut white construction paper into 2-inch (5-cm) star shapes—five for each child. Cut additional white construction paper into 1x6-inch (2.5x15-cm) strips—two for each child. Cut remainder of white construction paper into 1x16-inch (2.5x40-cm) strips—one for each child. Cut streamers into 2-foot (.6-m) lengths—six for each child. Cut string into 2-foot (.6-m) lengths—four for each child.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:

- ★ Glue red construction paper onto half of container. Glue blue construction paper onto other half of container (sketch a). Overlap edges.
- ★ Glue short white strips onto container to cover overlapping edges (sketch b).
- ★ Glue one end of each streamer onto bottom edge of wind tube (sketch c).
- ★ Glue long white strip onto wind tube to cover bottom edge (sketch d).
- ★ Glue stars randomly onto wind tube to decorate.
- ★ Punch four evenly spaced holes directly under top rim of container (sketch e).

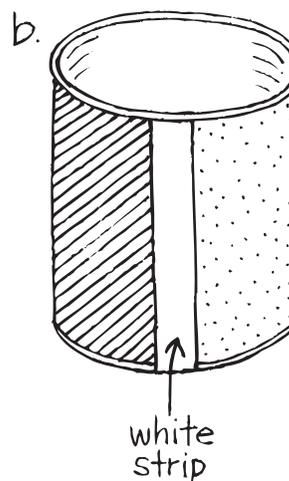
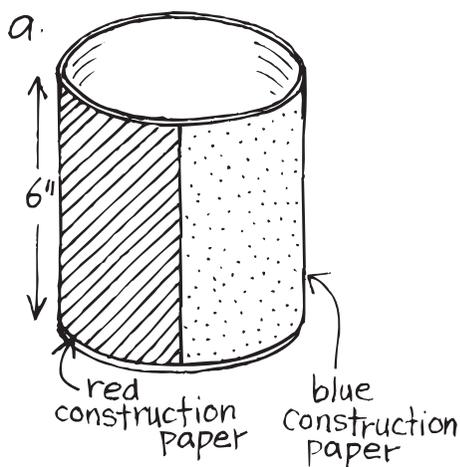
- ★ Tie one length of string through each hole (sketch e).
- ★ Gather loose ends of string together and tie ends in a knot. Tie a knot halfway down length of strings (sketch f).
- ★ Tie wind tube to pole or porch railing for decoration. When wind blows, wind tube will float in the air.

Simplification Ideas: Cover container with one large piece of construction paper or use acrylic paint. Use silver or gold self-adhesive stars instead of cutting from construction paper.

Enrichment Idea: Older children may measure and cut their own paper, streamers and string. Provide construction paper in a variety of colors and allow children to decorate container. Tube can be decorated to commemorate any flag.

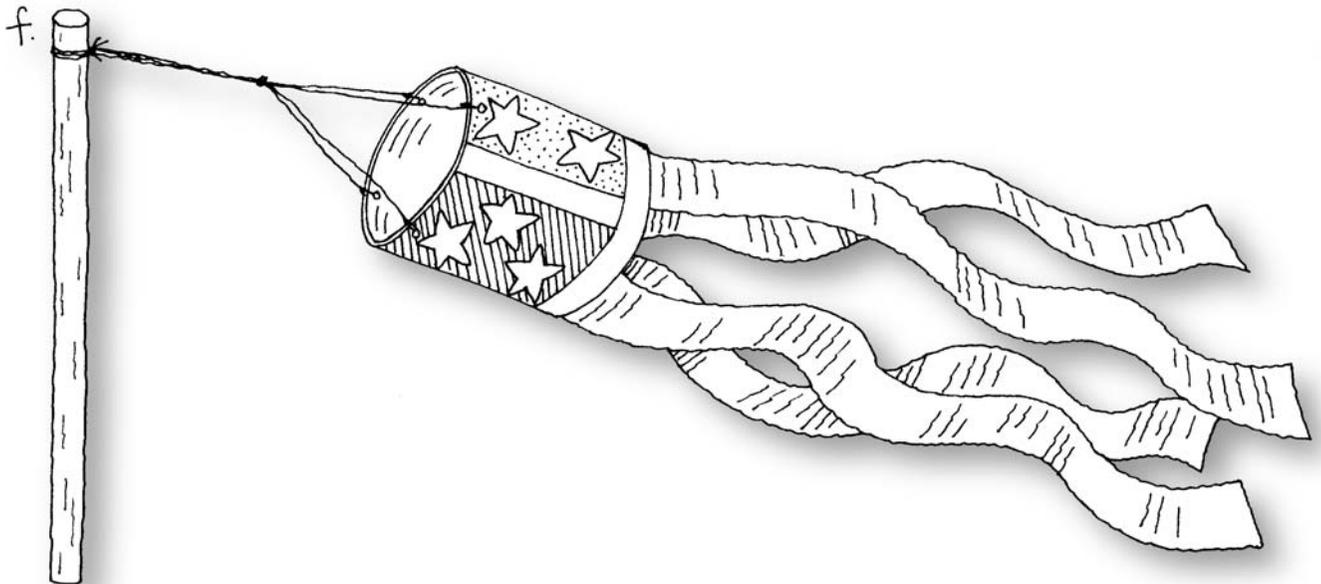
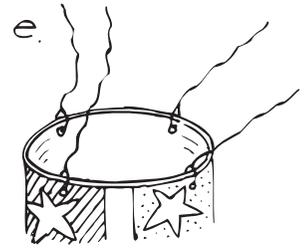
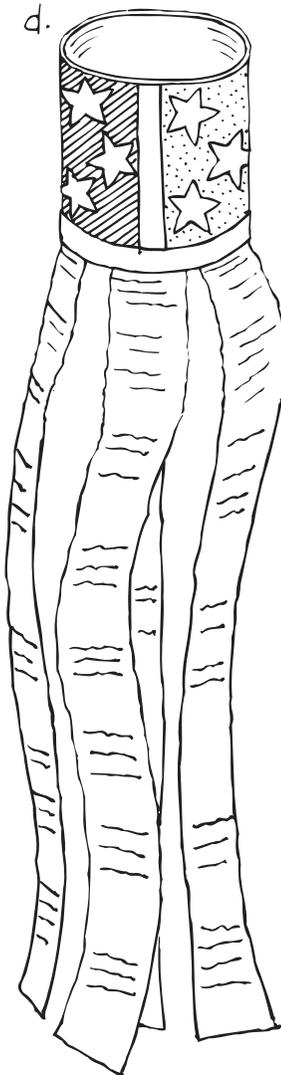
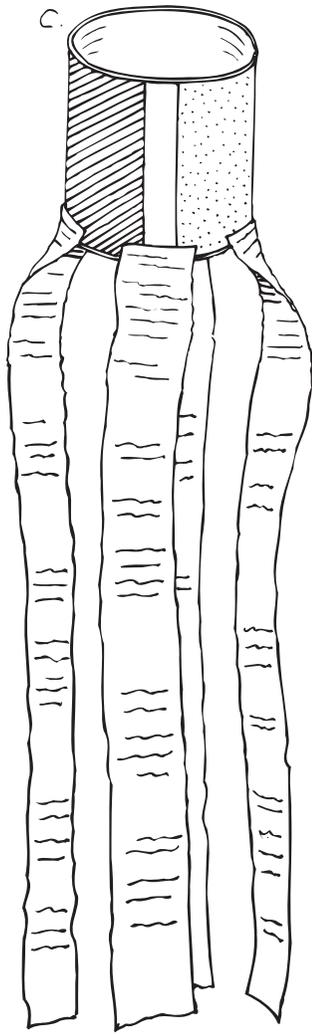
Conversation:

What popular holiday do Americans celebrate in July? The Fourth of July celebrates freedom in America. Does your family celebrate the Fourth of July? What do you do to celebrate? Many people hang the American flag in front of their houses to show respect for their country. What do people in other countries do to celebrate their country's history? (Mexican Independence Day, Queen's Birthday, etc.)



(Sketches continued on page 15.)

ALL-AMERICAN WIND TUBE



Around the World

CENTRAL AMERICAN MOLA PICTURE (25-30 MINUTES)

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY • OLDER ELEMENTARY

Materials: Pencils, glue, craft knives or scissors with pointed tips. For each student—four sheets of 9x12-inch (22.5x30-cm) construction paper in four different colors.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:

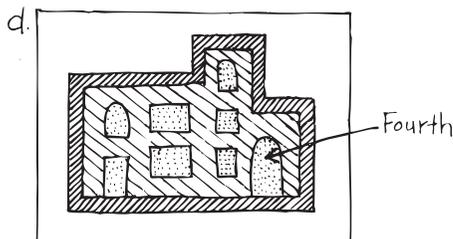
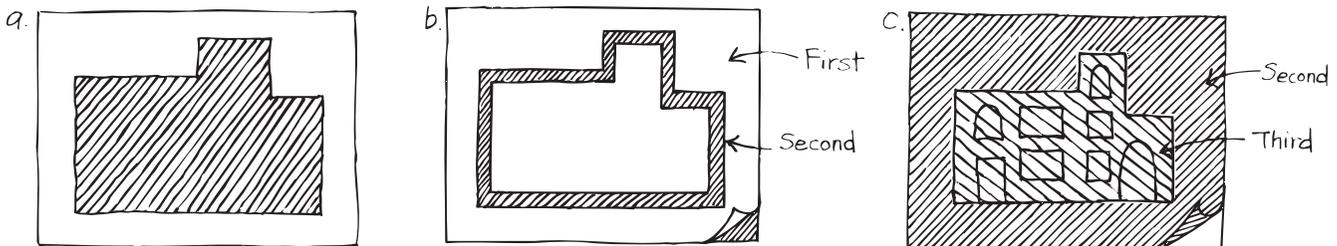
- ★ Choose four different colors of construction paper.
- ★ Draw a simple outline of your house on first sheet of paper (sketch a).
- ★ Carefully cut out shape of outline (shaded area on sketch).
- ★ Lay first sheet of paper on top of second sheet of paper. Draw another outline about ¼ inch (.625 cm) in from the first (sketch b).
- ★ Carefully cut out shape of outline from second sheet of paper.
- ★ Lay second sheet on top of third sheet. Use pencil to draw a few simple details of your house (sketch c).

- ★ Carefully cut out details from third sheet of paper.
- ★ Glue the three cut sheets of paper together, and then glue them onto the fourth sheet of paper (sketch d).

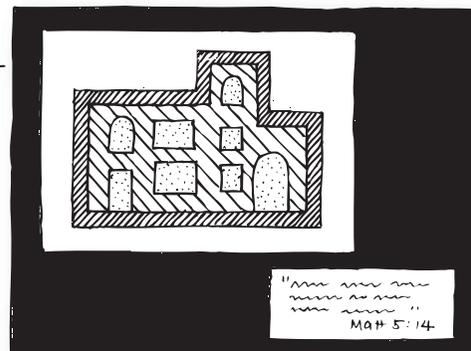
Enrichment Idea: Mount completed picture onto a 12x18-inch (30x45-cm) sheet of black construction paper. Letter a Bible verse on a small sheet of construction paper and glue to black paper as well (see sketch).

Conversation:

In Panama, these pictures are called molas. The Cuna Indians there make their molas out of brightly colored fabric. Panama is a small country in Central America. Optional: Show Panama on map. **Do any of your relatives come from or live in Central America? In South America? Has any family member ever visited any countries in South America?**



Enrichment
Idea



Around the World

CHINESE STREAMERS

(10-15 MINUTES)

EARLY CHILDHOOD • YOUNGER ELEMENTARY

Materials: Crepe paper streamers in a variety of bright colors, string, foil star stickers, transparent tape, scissors, measuring stick. For each child—one large plastic or wooden thread spool.

Preparation: Remove labels from spools. Cut crepe paper into 1-yard (.9-m) lengths—three different colors for each child. Cut string into 18-inch (45-cm) lengths—one for each child.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:

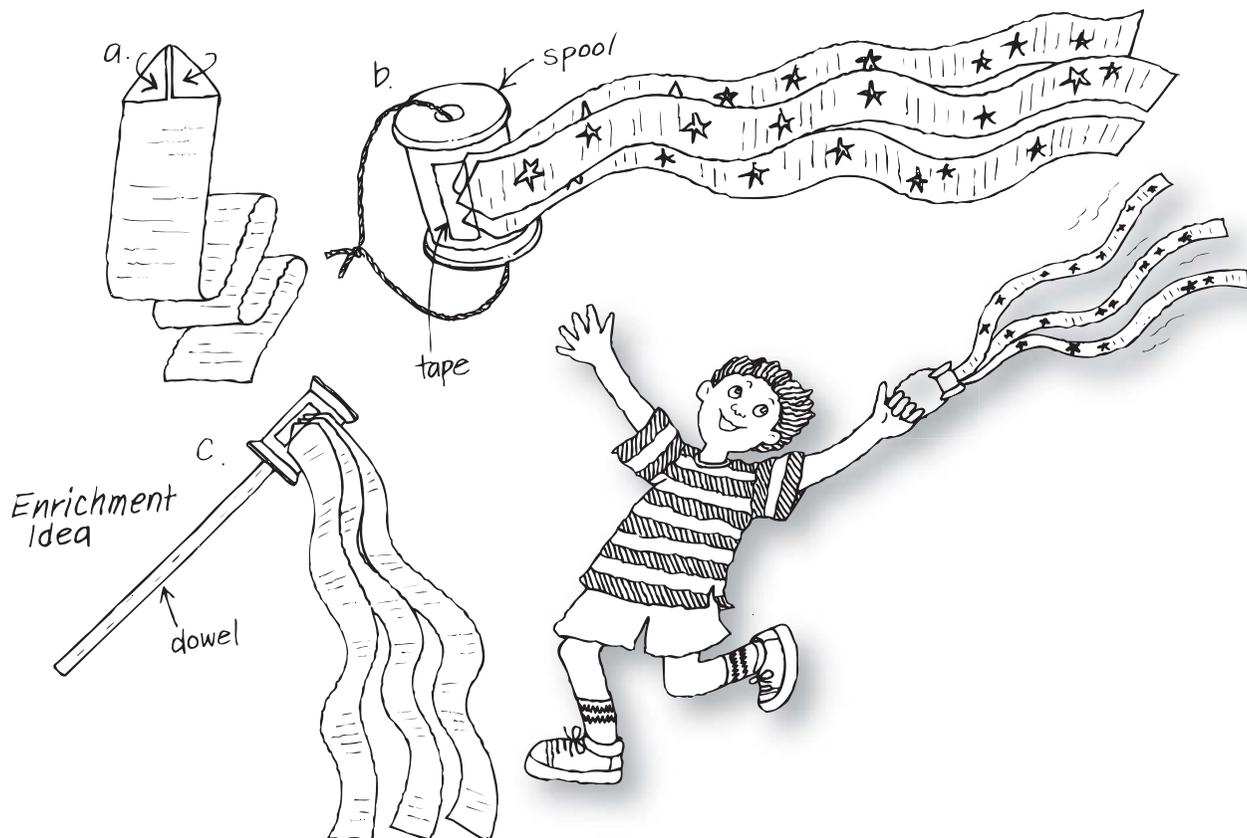
- ★ Fold one end of streamer into a point (sketch a). Repeat for other two streamers.
- ★ Tape points of streamers onto spool (sketch b).
- ★ Decorate streamers with star stickers.
- ★ Thread string through center of spool. With teacher's help, tie a knot to secure string (sketch b).

- ★ Hold spool by string and wave in the air. Wind streamers around spool when not in use.

Enrichment Idea: Instead of holding spool by string, make a long handle by inserting and gluing a dowel into center of spool (sketch c).

Conversation:

Optional: Show China on a map. **In a country called China, children wave streamers like these during parades. Tell about a time when your family went to a parade. What did you see in the parade? What shapes can you make by waving your streamers in the air? Can you make a circle?**



Around the World

EAST INDIAN RING-AND-STICK GAME

(20-30 MINUTES)

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY • OLDER ELEMENTARY

Materials: Toilet paper or paper towel tubes, tempera paint, paintbrushes, shallow containers, cotton string, self-adhesive paper in colorful patterns, hole punch, masking tape, scissors, measuring stick, newspaper. For each child—one unsharpened pencil.

Preparation: Cut cardboard tubes into 1-inch (2.5-cm) lengths—two for each child. Cut string into 30-inch (75-cm) lengths—one for each child. Cut self-adhesive paper into ½x20-inch (1.25x50-cm) strips—one for each child. Cover work area with newspaper. Pour paint into shallow containers.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:

- ★ Cut open two cardboard tube pieces (sketch a).
- ★ Use masking tape to join the two pieces together to make a larger ring (sketch b).
- ★ Punch a hole in ring.
- ★ Paint the outside of ring and allow to dry.
- ★ Peel backing from self-adhesive paper strip. Hold one end of string on pencil while spiraling paper strip tightly around length of pencil (sketch c).

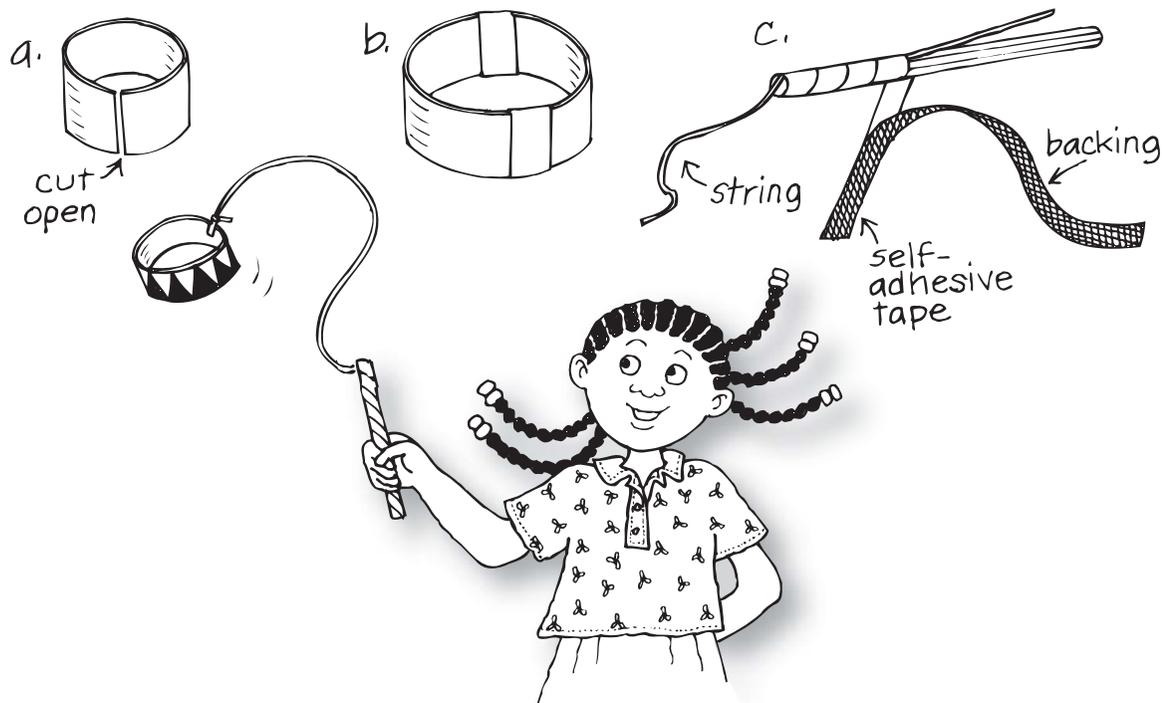
- ★ Tie loose end of string through hole in ring.
- ★ Hold pencil with one hand and toss ring in the air, trying to catch it on the stick.

Simplification Idea: Use a wooden ring (available at most craft stores) instead of making one from cardboard tube.

Enrichment Ideas: Spray cardboard ring with acrylic spray paint. Or, cover ring with self-adhesive paper or wrapping paper.

Conversation:

Ring-and-Stick is a game played by children who live in the country of India. Optional: Show India on a map. **Do you know anybody from India? People play games all over the world. Some games you can play by yourself, some you can play with a partner and some games you can play with many people. What games do you play with your family? At school?**



Around the World

EARLY CHILDHOOD • YOUNGER ELEMENTARY • OLDER ELEMENTARY

Materials: Poster board, cotton string, felt pens in a variety of colors, hole punch, paper hole reinforcements, ruler, pointed scissors.

Preparation: Cut poster board into 2x6-inch (5x15-cm) rectangles—one for each child. Cut string into 18-inch (45-cm) lengths—two for each child.

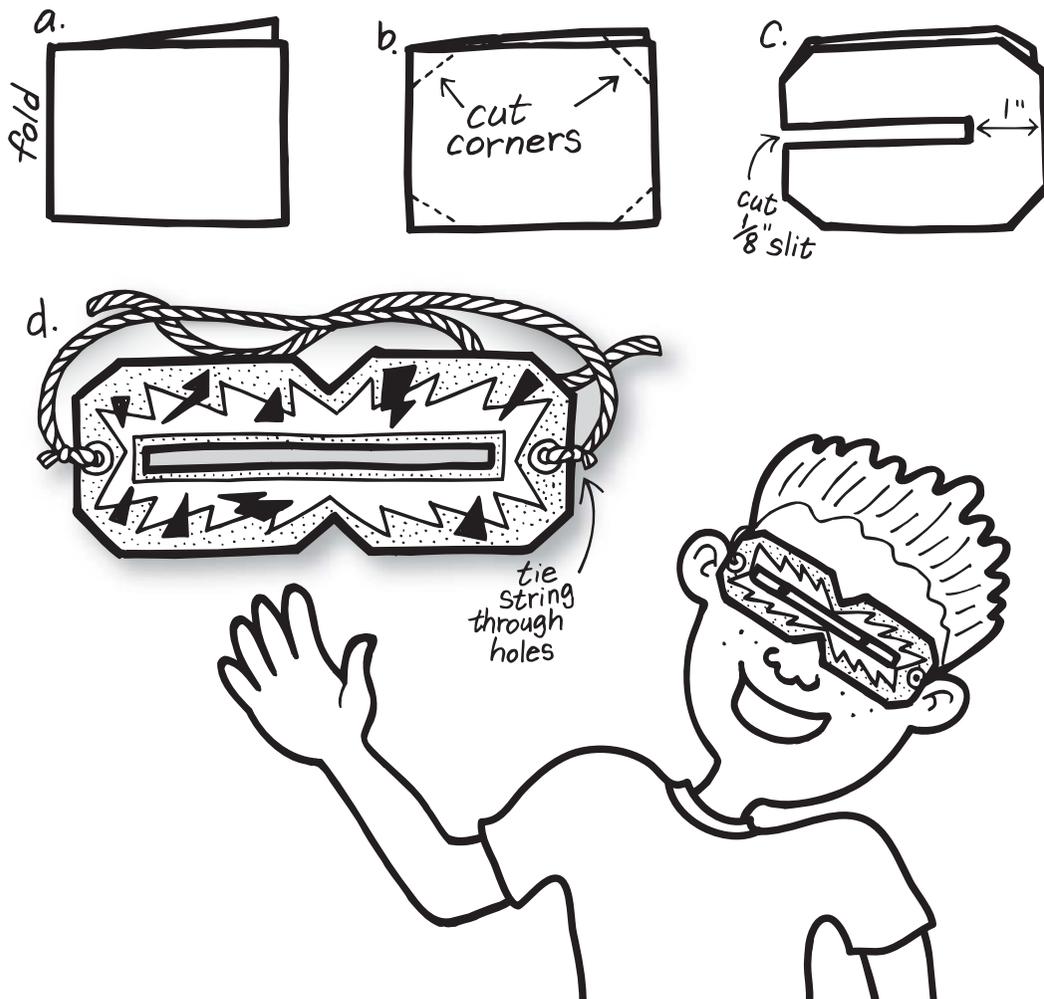
Instruct each child in the following procedures:

- ★ Fold poster board in half (sketch a).
- ★ Use scissors to cut off all four corners (sketch b).
- ★ Starting at folded edge, cut a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (.3125-cm) slit in the middle of poster board. Stop 1 inch (2.5 cm) before the opposite edge (sketch c).
- ★ Open poster board.
- ★ Punch holes in opposite sides of rectangle. Place paper hole reinforcements over holes (sketch d).

- ★ Use felt pens to decorate shades.
- ★ Tie a piece of string through each hole.
- ★ Tie the string around your head to wear your Snow Shades.

Conversation:

Eskimos wear goggles like these to protect their eyes from the cold Arctic wind. A thin slit is cut to see through. The small opening also helps to dim the bright glare from the snow and sun. Eskimos used to carve their goggles out of whale bone or wood. They carved interesting shapes and designs on the goggles. How do you want to decorate your Snow Shades?



Around the World

OLDER ELEMENTARY

Materials: Body Pattern, white poster board, drill, 1/8-inch (.31-cm) drill bit, cotton string, felt pens in a variety of colors, pencils, transparent tape, scissors, ruler. For each child—four tongue depressors.

Preparation: Trace Body Pattern onto poster board and cut out—one for each child. Use drill to make five holes in poster board as shown on pattern. Drill a hole about 3/4 inch (1.9-cm) from one end of each tongue depressor (sketch a). Cut string into 5-inch (12.5-cm) lengths—three for each child. Cut additional string into 10-inch (25-cm) lengths—one for each child.

Instruct each child in the following procedures:

- ★ Use felt pens to draw a head and body on poster board cutout.
- ★ Color two tongue depressors to look like arms and two to look like legs (sketch a). Draw hands and feet at opposite ends of drilled holes.
- ★ Wrap a piece of tape around one end of each length of string. Thread shorter length of string

through body and arms as shown in sketch b. Tie knots on both ends of string at front of body. Repeat process to attach legs to body.

- ★ Thread other short length of string through hole at top of head and make a loop for holding (sketch c).
- ★ Tie longer length of string to the other strings as shown in sketch c.
- ★ In one hand, hold figure by loop. With other hand, pull on string below to make figure jump into action!

Conversation:

In England, Germany and other European countries, these toys are called "Jumping Jacks." What were your favorite toys when you were younger? Is there a family member you would like to give your Jumping Jack to?

