



30 mins
active
time

ICE ORNAMENTS

Maximize the winter sun with these gorgeous ice ornaments, which sparkle and capture the light. Our brains are wired for novelty, and these ornaments bring a lot joy during the long, winter months. It's exciting to see how they turn out once they are frozen, and if they melt, you can make them over and over again.



SUPPLIES

- Muffin or bundt pans
- Water
- Colorful bits of nature such as petals, berries, leaves, or seeds
- Thin citrus slices (optional)
- String or twine
- Scissors
- A freezer or freezing weather



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add a thin layer of water to your pans—enough to hold your items in place but not so much that the ice will be too dense to capture light.
2. Add your nature items. Where there is space between them, more light will shine through.
3. Unless your pans have a natural hole (like a bundt pan), drape a piece of string in each one so both ends are in the water and there is enough length out of the water to hang up your ornaments.
4. Set your ornaments to freeze outside or in a freezer. It will take 12 to 24 hours. Make sure they're not in a spot where they'll get covered with snow.
5. Once the ice is frozen, remove it from the container. If it doesn't come out easily, set it for 15 or 20 seconds in a shallow pan with a layer of warm water. This will loosen your ornaments and they will easily slide out. Be careful not to drop them or they might shatter.
6. Hang your ornaments outside and watch as they sparkle in the sunlight. Decorate a tree with them or clip them to string to make an icy garland.



The less water you use, the **more the sun** will shine through.



TRY THIS!
Check out local resale stores for novelty shaped muffin pans like hearts or stars.



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45 mins

FROZEN BUBBLES

Bubbles are a hit with kids year-round, but when the temperatures dip well below freezing, we can aim for frozen ones! You can use a simple bubble solution to make these, while others swear by a few special ingredients. Become a frozen-bubbles scientist—try out different bubble formulas and predict which will work the best and why.



SUPPLIES

- Below-freezing temperatures
- Bubble wand

Option 1:

- Store-bought bubble solution

Option 2:

- 1 part water
- 4 parts dish soap
- Dash of light corn syrup

Option 3:

- 1 cup warm water
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 2 tbsp light corn syrup
- 2 tbsp dish soap



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a very cold day that isn't very windy. Be very careful in the frigid temperatures, and make sure you dress accordingly.
2. Follow one of the bubble solution recipes (or experiment with all three!) The dish soap creates the bubbles, the corn syrup adds thickness to your mixture, and the sugar helps with crystallization.
3. Cool your bubble solution(s) down in the fridge for around 30 minutes.
4. Find a sheltered spot outside and start blowing your bubbles. If they have a soft spot to land on, like snow, they are less likely to break.
5. Admire your bubbles as they freeze! But be patient—it could take several attempts to get a good one.

Every bubble has a unique frozen pattern.



MORE IDEAS

- Try to get some **slow-motion video** footage of the incredible process of your bubbles freezing.
- If the bubbles are working for you, see how many you can **stack** on top of each other.



TRY THIS!

Experiment with different sizes of bubble wands. Do they affect how the bubbles freeze?



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2 hrs

LANTERN

Hiking at dusk or into the night opens up a whole new world of exciting adventure (see page 44). As opposed to a flashlight, a homemade lantern gives off a minimal circle of light, allowing your eyes to really adjust to the darkness. Hanging up several of these makes an outdoor space very cozy and they also make unique gifts.



SUPPLIES

- Heavyweight watercolor paper approx. 8 x 20in (20 x 50cm)
- Watercolor paints or crayons
- Paintbrushes
- Olive oil
- Scissors
- Stapler and staples
- Cardboard
- Glue
- Tissue paper
- Hole punch
- Wool yarn
- Battery-operated tealights
- Long stick (optional)



INSTRUCTIONS

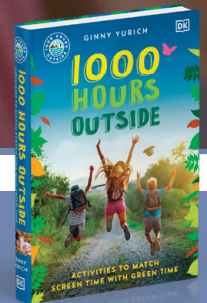
1. Paint one side of your watercolor paper and allow it to dry. Alternatively, you could color it with crayons.
2. Once the paper is dry, paint it with a thin layer of olive oil. This will make your paper semitranslucent so light shines through it beautifully.
3. Along one long side of your paper, carefully cut slits about 4 inches (10cm) in length every 2 inches (5cm).
4. Carefully cut shapes out of your paper, such as a moon, heart, or star, and glue tissue paper behind each hole.
5. Roll your lantern into a cylinder or fold it perpendicular to the long side in three equally spaced places to make a rectangular prism.
6. Ask an adult to help you staple your lantern shut.
7. Glue the tabs down and glue cardboard to the base to hold it all together.
8. Punch two holes at the top, and tie each end of a piece of wool through the two holes.
9. Tie your lantern to a long stick.
10. Finally, put battery-operated tealights inside your lantern.



Jam jars and **tissue paper** also make good lanterns. Use the lids to secure string handles.



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30-60 mins

FRUIT FEEDER

Did you know that some birds really enjoy eating fruit? Robins, bluebirds, woodpeckers, jays, and many others like the types of fruits that you may have in your kitchen such as apples, pears, oranges, grapes, and berries. Instead of putting fruit out whole, why not turn it into beautiful feeders for your neighborhood birds?



SUPPLIES

- Pieces of fruit—cut pieces of apples or pears, slices of citrus, whole grapes or berries, etc.
- Thick thread, string, or twine
- Scissors
- Large sewing needle



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tie a large knot in one end of the string and then thread the other end through the needle.
2. Carefully thread your fruit onto the string. For grapes, berries, and pieces of apples or pears, poke the needle straight through the middle of the fruit. For citrus slices, push the needle through the flesh near the rind and then out the other side near the opposite rind. You could alternate fruit to make a pattern.
3. Once you have threaded all the fruit, remove the needle and put it somewhere safe. Tie a large loop at the end of your feeder.
4. Hang the feeder outside and set up an observation area so you can see which species of birds come to dine.



Add **birdseed** or **cereal** to your fruit feeders.

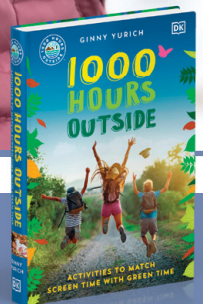


MORE IDEAS

- Instead of sewing the fruit together, you could thread it onto **wooden skewers** and tie them up outside.
- Keep a **nature journal** of the birds who come to feed. Look online to find out more about their preferred diets.
- Monitor which fruit in your **bird buffet** gets eaten first, so you know which to make more of next time.



TRY THIS!
You could twist two threads together to make your feeder stronger.

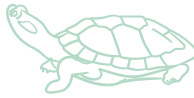


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1-3 hrs

SNOW ANIMALS



We love Frosty the Snowman—he’s a true legend. We also love decorating our yards with other snowmen and snow women. But what about other creatures? Forest friends, swamp dwellers, safari roamers, and more can all be created out of that fresh snow that just blanketed your yard. They’ll soon be the talk of the neighborhood!



SUPPLIES

- Snow
- Shovel
- Yard items like sticks, leaves, rocks, pine cones, trash can lids



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Take the same approach as for building a traditional snowman—roll up balls of snow and pat them together into shapes. But instead of only building Frosty, you can make animals too. Possible ideas include:
 - **Snow Turtle**—sculpt a turtle in the snow using a trash can lid to form the shell. Then use a stick to create lines in the “shell.”
 - **Snow Elephant**—make the biggest snowballs you can and use downed branches for a trunk and tusks.
 - **Snow Reindeer**—look for branches that mimic antlers.
 - **Snow Seal**—make the shape of the seal, being sure to make it skinnier at one end with flippers. See if you can balance a giant snowball on its nose like a ball at the circus!



Can you make a **handheld** mini snow animal?

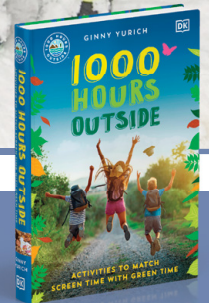


MORE IDEAS

- Create a **mini herd** of snow animals around your yard.
- Surround a traditional snowman with **forest friends** also made out of snow.

TRY THIS!

Give your snow animals facial features, whiskers, and a tasty snack!



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