

Rainy Day Crafts for Teens

Establishing a rainy day kit

By Christine Wu

A rainy day can strike at any given time. Establishing a “rainy day kit” can turn a rainy day into a productive, fun time at the library—especially for those unexpected thundershowers that either bring teens into the library, or keep them there for the duration of the storm.

Indoor activities and/or crafts can help alleviate boredom and present teens with opportunities to play around with their creativity. They are also fairly easy to pull out and offer to teens as a solution to their rainy day restlessness. This type of passive programming is especially helpful when there is nothing scheduled or teens are feeling restless and not wanting to participate in formal programming.

Suggestions for items (and craft activities) to keep in your “rainy day kit”:

- A variety of coloured paper and markers/pens/scissors/glue - this the start of a million possibilities. Teens can make their own cards, bookmarks, artwork, etc. This can be combined with a passive “zine-making” introduction: pull out examples of zines from the library’s zine collection for teens to peruse, and allow them to make their own zine right there. The sky is the limit!
- An assortment of beads, trinkets, string, elastic, etc. This can make for an impromptu jewellery-making session.
- Embroidery floss and/or rope/string/twine in various colours. Friendship bracelets, which were popular in the 90s, are making a revival now—pull out the library’s collection of books on friendship bracelets and let teens make their own bracelets. Sailor’s knots bracelets are also popular right now and offer an alternative for teens that may be uninterested in traditional friendship bracelets. A tutorial on how to make a sailor’s knot bracelet is available here: <http://www.etsy.com/blog/en/2012/how-tuesday-sailors-knot-bracelets/> - all you need is some string/rope and a tin can!

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- Old magazines and comic books. These can be used in conjunction with the aforementioned paper/markers/pens/scissors/glue projects. Also, if your library has access to a button/badge maker, teens can have fun making comic book themed buttons.
- Coloured felt, fabric markers, needles and thread. Teens can easily make their own iPod/tech cases by decorating rectangular pieces of felt with stitching and other pieces of felt, or with fabric markers. Examples are available at <http://tryhandmade.com/sydney-angel/>



Image 1: Up-cycled comic book buttons. Retrieved from <http://www.crossovercomics.ca/frontpage/it-came-from-etsy-upcycled-comic-book-pins/>



Image 2: iPod/iphone cases. Images by Erika Jurney. Retrieved from <http://tryhandmade.com/sydney-angel/>

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