

Take & Make Craft Series

Lara Killiam and Ashley Machum

Overall Objective: Get teens crafting!

The goal with providing these project ideas is to show how inexpensive and easy it can be to provide teens with the tools they need to get started. Organizing some creative activities for teens is a good way to help teens get to know library staff. The four project ideas suggested in this series would all make funky gifts, or embellishments to a teen's own space.

The Programme

Here are four simple project ideas for you to assemble your own "take & make" craft series with a total cost of approximately \$117.00 Canadian dollars. Teens grab a pre-made kit to take home or wherever they like and put together their own small items, or work on them right in the library if you have the space! This is also a great way to highlight collection materials that have additional ideas for teens to use their creativity to make fun and interesting stuff. Having related books handy or in a display nearby when teens come to pick up crafting materials is a great idea.

When you start preparing to assemble materials, give some thought to likely community partnerships. Check with local schools, businesses, framing or art stores, and college or independent art programmes. You can adjust these projects to take advantage of any great free materials that are donated.

Staffing Requirements

We anticipate needing two or three staff members to assemble the kits in half an hour to an hour, but only one member of staff who is nearby or in charge while kits are available for pick up. Also, include the contact details for that staff member

available on any promotional materials for potential questions or feedback.

The budget estimate is based upon ten kits. We suggest advertising that the kits will be available for about a week, after school hours, perhaps from 3-5 pm. You may wish to have kits available on the weekend as well. Having the kits available for a few days provides some flexibility for teens to stop by on a day that is convenient for them.

Scheduling

Mid-March: journal – perhaps to keep track of the change of seasons

Mid-June: picture frame to remember your friends over summer!

Early October: tin punch candle holders for Halloween

Early December: Christmas ornaments (adapt holiday themes to your local community!)

Promoting Your Crafting Series

This is a craft series and lots of fun so get the word out there! Promote as series not individual programs.

- Consider having a poster contest to kick off the series, and post them around the community – in art supply stores, markets, cafés, thrift shops, schools, and anywhere people are being creative.
- Word of mouth is a great way to promote upcoming sessions so make sure all staff at the library know what is going on and mention it to patrons at other programmes.
- Liaise with the art teachers in community who will mention it to teens, and try to prepare a

display ahead of time to show completed examples of the upcoming craft and inspire interest.

- In each batch of craft kits put in a brightly coloured slip of paper that gives the details of the next event in the series.
- If you have a teen website for the library, get teens to take a digital picture of their craft and post it for everyone to see. Also consider putting the instructions for each project on the library website as each session starts so that everyone has access to the instructions.

Evaluation

The success of the Take and Make craft series is dependent upon a combination of quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods. The numerical statistics will help you to plan how many craft kits to assemble and the feedback will guide the program's direction.

Quantitative Methods

- ✓ Count the craft kits that are taken and possibly note how quickly they are picked up
- ✓ Count the number of downloads of the craft instructions from the website
- ✓ Count the images of completed crafts that are posted to the website

Qualitative Methods

- ✓ Online feedback/suggestions submitted on the teen website
- ✓ Written feedback/suggestions from a comment box provided with the display
- ✓ Verbal feedback/suggestions at the library made to staff

Craft Program Resources for Librarians

Books

Check your library's collection and get inspired. Many books focus on one specific area of craft. Flip through these books for new ideas that can be adapted for the "take & make" format.

Electronic Resources

Toronto Public Library Teen Website:

<http://ramp.torontopubliclibrary.ca/secondary/expressyourself/artisticadventures/doityourself/three-content.jsp>

California Library Association has several videos about teen crafting ideas, plus PDF handouts:

<http://www.cla-net.org/summer-reading/workshop.php>

This site has a number of good ideas for future craft programming, clear instructions, and pictures:

<http://crafts.kaboose.com/crafts-for-teens.html>

Lots more ideas here, and categorized neatly so if you have an idea about a type of craft you're interested in planning programming around, but a bit fuzzy on the details, take a look:

http://parentingteens.about.com/od/crafts/Crafts_Craft_Project_Ideas.htm

Accordion Journal (AKA: Low-Tech Blog)

Library provides:

- Paper (could be scrap, donated, or some of the stuff from the recycling bin!)
- Bristol board or cardstock
- Stuff to decorate the cover with: decorative paper, cut outs from magazines, markers...
- Ribbon or elastic or string or yarn
- Instructions / Materials list

At home, teens will need:

- Glue (white school glue recommended)
- Exacto knife or Craft knife
- A surface to cut on

TIP: Use a thick layer of newspaper for cutting on, to protect surface beneath

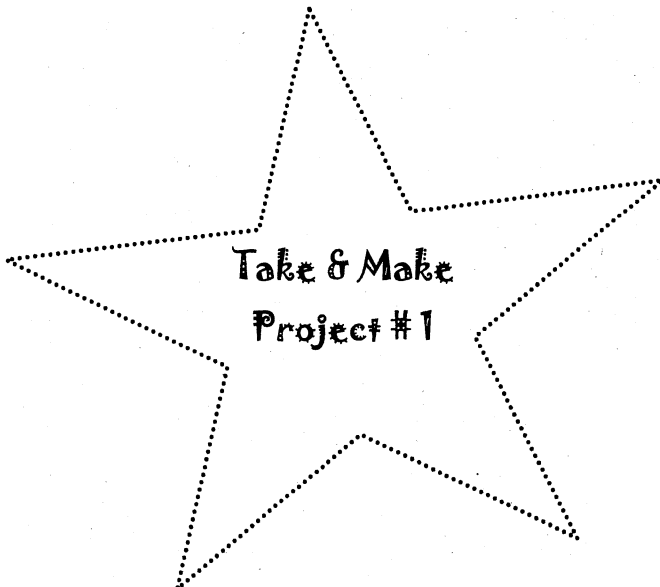
The how to:

Need a visual? Check out: <http://arttutorial.blogspot.com/2007/04/accordian-journal.html>

- Cut your paper into strips, measuring 15 cm in height
- Fold your strip of paper in half and half again and again until the desired page size is achieved
- Glue the strips together to create a longer strip which results in a larger page count
- Cut the Bristol board so it is 1cm bigger on all sides than one page
- Decorate your front and back cover
- Glue the folded strip of paper to the inside of the front and back covers
- Tie the journal closed with the ribbon

TIP: Use clear packing tape for a laminated effect on the front and back covers

TIP: Sandwich the finished journal between heavy books to make sure it dries flat



Picture Perfect

Library provides:

- Piece of cardstock or cardboard or pre-cut frame
- Roll of party streamer crepe paper
- Narrow ribbon or thread
- Instructions / Materials list

At home, teens will need:

- Exacto knife or Craft knife
- A surface to cut on
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Tape

TIP: Use a thick layer of newspaper for cutting on, to protect surface beneath

The how to:

Note: If you are using a pre-cut frame skip to step 4.

1. Measure the picture that you want to display, or decide on a standard size, like 4x6 inches
2. Draw a frame onto the cardstock/cardboard using the ruler and pencil. Make the picture display window a little smaller than your actual picture – If the picture is 4 by 6 inches then the display window should measure 3.5 by 5.5 inches
3. Using a craft knife, carefully cut the cardstock or cardboard into a frame
4. Secure one end of the craft paper using tape on the back of the frame
5. Wrap the crepe paper around the frame. Secure the loose end on the back of frame with a hidden loop of tape
6. Wind the ribbon around the frame and secure the ends with tape on the back
7. Tape your photo to the back and display



Take & Make
Project #2

Tin Can Luminaria

Library provides:

- Tin cans of various sizes, clean and dry, with labels removed
- Templates for skull and bones, gravestone, bats, lit taper candle, pumpkin, witch's hat
- Wire for hanging if desired – pre-cut approximately 30 cm length pieces of wire (depending on can diameter)
- Instructions / Materials list

At home, teens will need:

- Small hammer
- Nail
- Workspace
- Tape or a marker
- Old towel or sheet.
- Small candle like a tea light or votive, depending on the size of the tin can

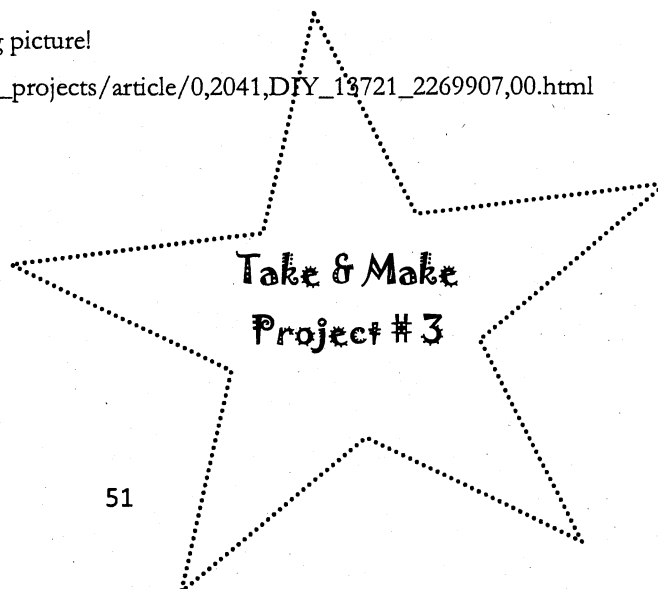
TIP: Have teens draw some template ideas to photocopy ahead of time – or use an artistic member of staff!

TIP: Ask staff for tin cans - any shape/size. Watch out for sharp edges to file!

The how to:

1. Make sure can is clean and dry
2. Fill can with water and freeze overnight
3. Tape template to frozen can or draw own design on can with marker
4. Using hammer and nail (plus caution!), outline design with holes, about 1cm apart (the ice keeps the can from collapsing)
5. If desired, make two holes at top of can opposite each other to thread wire through for hanging
6. Let ice melt
7. Thread wire for hanging if desired
8. Add a candle and enjoy the glowing picture!

http://www.diynetwork.com/diy/ca_crafts_projects/article/0,2041,DIY_13721_2269907,00.html



Holiday Ornaments

Adjust holiday themes to fit your local community.

Library provides:

- Several assorted Christmas and holiday card images
- Coloured cardstock (cut an 8 ½ x 11” sheet into quarters, consider enclosing several colours in each kit so several ornaments can be made)
- Ornament hooks or string/yarn/ribbon for hanging
- Instructions / Materials list

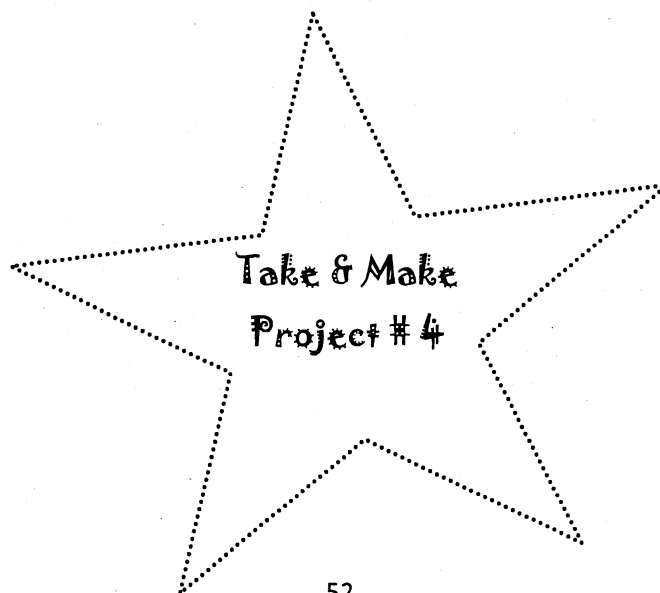
TIP: Ask staff to bring in old holiday cards or pick up a bulk pack of cards from the dollar store or a drug store in the off season.

At home, teens will need:

- Glue or tape
- Safety pin or something else small and sharp

The how to:

1. Cut out your chosen image – be creative with the shape you create around the picture!
2. Mount on coloured cardstock, making sure there is at least a 1cm cardstock border around
3. Cut cardstock around image, leaving approximately half a cm around the image
4. Use a pin to pierce holes through the paper so holiday lights shine through – either around the whole image and evenly spaced or strategically placed – for example, if there is a candle in the image, punch a few holes around the flame to let light shine through
5. Punch a hole at the top of the cardstock/image and use ribbon, yarn, string or an ornament hook to hang the ornament .



Approximate Budget for Individual Projects

COST FOR 10 JOURNALS

	Quantity	Total
Supplies:		
Journal Pages:		
FREE scrap paper can be used for a one sided journal OR		
\$0.15-\$1.00 for a large sheet of plain paper from art supply store	x 4	\$ 4.00
\$1.00 for two sheets of Bristol board from dollar store	x 2	\$ 2.00
Stuff to decorate the cover with:		
FREE retired library magazines OR		
\$2.50-\$5.00 for a large sheet of decorative paper from art supply store	x 3	\$15.00
\$1.00-\$2.00 spools of ribbon or thread from dollar store	x 2	<u>\$ 4.00</u>
		\$25.00

COST FOR 10 FRAMES

	Quantity	Total
Supplies:		
\$1.00-\$2.00 for a pre-cut frame from dollar store	x 10	\$ 20.00
\$0.50-\$1.50 for a roll of party streamer from dollar store	x 4	\$ 6.00
\$1.00-\$2.00 spools of ribbon or thread from dollar store	x 6	<u>\$12.00</u>
		\$38.00

COST FOR 10 CANDLE HOLDERS

	Quantity	Total
Supplies:		
\$3.00-\$6.00 for a spool of 100 meters of wire for hanging	x 1	<u>\$ 6.00</u>
		\$ 6.00

COST FOR 10 ORNAMENTS

	Quantity	Total
Supplies:		
\$5.00-\$10.00 for Holiday cards if enough are not donated	x 1	\$ 10.00
\$8.00-\$10.00 for multi-coloured cardstock (textures or patterns are great too!)	x 1	\$10.00
\$1.00-\$2.00 for ornament hooks for hanging from dollar store OR	x 1	\$ 2.00
\$1.00-\$3.00 for string/yarn/ribbon for hanging from dollar store	x 1	<u>\$ 3.00</u>
		\$23.00

MISCELLANEOUS COSTS

\$5.00-\$20.00 for 40 bags	x 1	\$20.00
\$5.00 for 40 instructional printouts and promotion	x 1	<u>\$5.00</u>
		\$25.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$117.00