



If you love anything crafty and creative, why not celebrate your birthday by throwing an arty party?

Have fun using your design skills to decorate everything from the invitations to the party favours and then check out our fab ideas, from ceramic painting to drawing games and even art-themed snacks!

ACTIVITY

Paint your plate and mug

Ingredients

- Paint-It ceramic mug party kit and/or
- Paint-It ceramic plate party kit

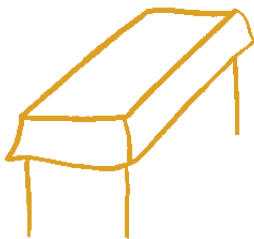
Equipment

- Large table and chairs
- Old tablecloth or sheet
- Small pots (for water)



Instructions

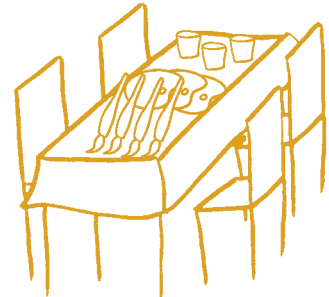
1 Turn your party room into a ceramic studio by putting a big table in the middle and covering it with a tablecloth or plastic sheet.



2 Set out paints, palettes (for mixing colours) and brushes for each of your guests and add pots of water all the way along for washing your brushes.



3 Add chairs all around the table, and dig out some CDs so you can listen to your favourite tunes as you paint.



4 When the guests arrive, ask them to select either a mug or a plate to paint and show them in to your ceramic studio.



5 If anyone's stuck for inspiration, have some ideas ready to help them out. Tear interesting pages out of old magazines, print off designs or pictures from a computer or collect pieces of wrapping paper and material with interesting patterns.



6 When everyone's finished painting their plate or mug, put them to side to dry.



7 At the end of the party, your guests can collect their ceramics, ready to take home and bake.

GAME Arty Concentration

This is a great drawing and concentration game!
Try it out while waiting for your ceramics to dry.

Ingredients

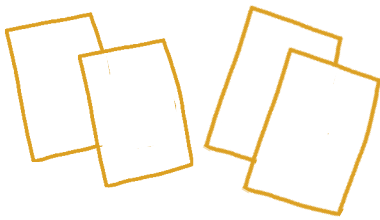
- 30 x A5 pieces of card

Equipment

- Large table and chairs
- Small pots (for water)
- Pencils and paints for colouring
- Brushes
- Colouring palette

Instructions

- 1** Before the party make a set of thirty concentration cards. Use A5-sized pieces of card (these measure about 15 x 21cm) and group them into pairs.



- 2** On one side of each card, draw and then colour in something arty – a pot of paint, a brush, an easel, a crayon, a paint palette, etc.. As you're making pairs of cards, you'll only have to think of fifteen different items, but you'll need to draw each one twice.



- 3** When you've got 15 pairs of items, shuffle the cards so they're all mixed up.



- 4** To play the game, lie the cards face down on the ground or a big table and ask the first player to turn two of them over.



- 5** If he or she is lucky and the cards are the same, the player keeps them and takes another turn. If the cards aren't a matching pair, turn them face down again and the next player takes their turn.



- 6** The object of the game is to match as many pairs as possible, and the best way to do this is by paying close attention to all the cards which are turned over. Try and remember where they are, so if you find one that's the same, you can pick out its pair.



- 7** Keep playing until all of the cards have been matched and claimed by players. The winner is the person who has collected the highest number of cards.



TOP TIP:

Ask your party guests to help you make the cards by drawing one or two pairs each. You can then shuffle them and play the game when you've finished adding your artwork!

FOOD Paint Palette Cookies

To Make The Cookies

Ingredients

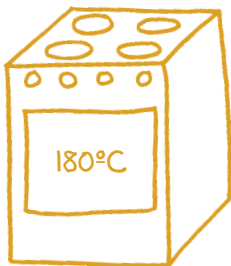
- 175g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 110g butter or margarine
- 110g caster sugar
- 50g cocoa powder
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp baking powder

Equipment

- Oven
- Weighing scales
- Teaspoon
- Mixing bowl
- Metal spoon
- Sieve
- Rolling pin
- Small knife
- Palette knife
- Baking sheet

Instructions

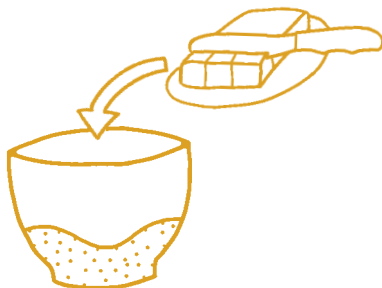
- 1 Ask an adult to help you preheat the oven to 180C / 350F / Gas mark 4.



- 2 Rest the sieve over your mixing bowl and carefully shake the flour and baking powder through it.



- 3 Cut the butter into small pieces and add it to the flour in the bowl.



- 4 Put your hands into the bowl and pick up some butter and flour. Squeeze it between the tips of your fingers and then drop it back into the bowl. Keep doing this - it's called rubbing in - for about five minutes until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs.



- 5 Shake the caster sugar and cocoa powder into your bowl and stir them into the flour and butter mixture.

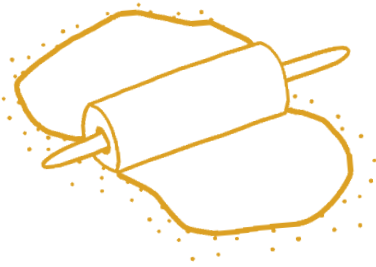


- 6 Add the egg and use a metal spoon (or your hands) to mix it in and make a soft ball of dough.

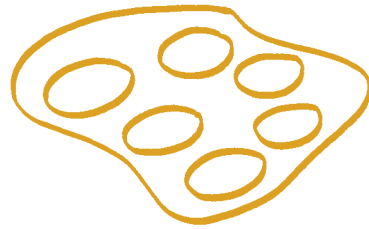


FOOD | Paint Palette Cookies

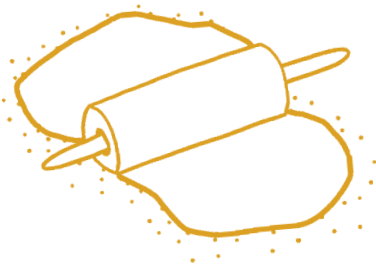
7 Now sprinkle some flour onto your working surface and use a rolling pin to flatten the dough mixture out. When it's about 5mm thick, you're ready to start cutting out cookies.



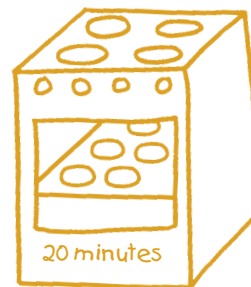
8 Using a round or oval-shaped cookie cutter, cut out as many shapes as you can from the dough. Lift them up with a palette knife and place on a baking sheet.



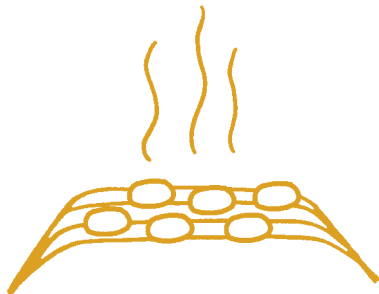
9 Keep going until you run out of dough, and then squeeze the left over bits together, roll them out and start again.



10 When your baking sheet is covered in cookies, ask an adult to help you put them in the oven and bake for 20 minutes.



11 Leave the cookies on a cooling rack for a few hours before you start decorating them. If you ice them when they're still warm, you'll end up with a runny and very sticky mess!



FOOD Paint Palette Topping

To Ice The Cookies

Ingredients

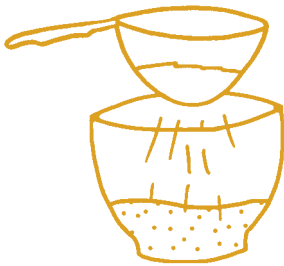
- 110g icing sugar
- 1 tablespoon cold water
- Smarties, or similar coloured sweets

Equipment

- Weighing scales
- Tablespoon
- Mixing bowl
- Sieve
- Metal spoon
- Small bowl
- Palette knife

Instructions

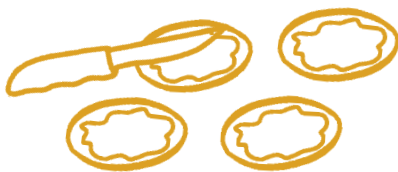
- 1 Rest the sieve on top of your mixing bowl and carefully shake the icing sugar through it to get rid of any lumps.



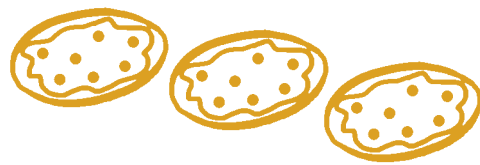
- 2 Stir the water into the icing sugar to make a stiff icing. If it's too stiff, put a bit more water in, or add some extra icing sugar if it's too runny.



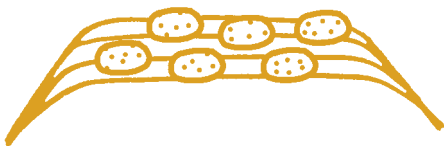
- 3 Spread a thin layer of icing onto each of your cookies with a palette knife.



- 4 Press Smarties or coloured sweets into the icing to look like blobs of paint on an artist's palette.



- 5 Leave the icing to dry.



ROOM DECORATION Art Gallery

Ingredients

- Thin card or stiff paper
- Gold paint

Equipment

- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Paintbrush
- Black marker pen
- Sticky-tac or string
- Polaroid camera and film

Instructions

1 Draw a 10cm square onto a piece of thin card or stiff paper. Add a 5cm border all the way round.



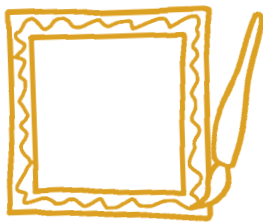
2 Cut around the outside of the border and the inside of the 10cm square to leave a frame shape.



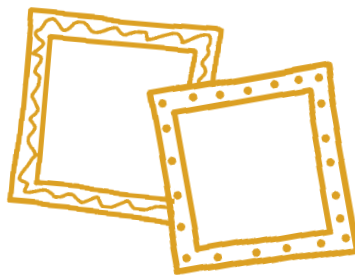
3 Paint the frame gold and leave to dry.



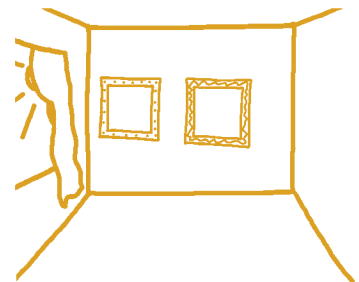
4 Add swirls, curls and lines in black marker pen to make your frame look like the kind of grand gilt frames you sometimes see in art galleries.



5 Cut out and decorate as many of these cardboard frames as you can, varying the sizes and making rectangles as well as squares.



6 Hang the empty frames on the walls of your party room. You can either stick them up with sticky-tac, or make a small hole in the top of each one and thread a piece of string through to tie them up.



7 When each of your guests has finished painting their ceramic cup or plate, take a Polaroid picture of them with their masterpiece and stick it inside one of the frames.

