

Yee-ha! It's time to celebrate your birthday and what could be more fun than a cowboy-themed party?

From decorating your ranch-house, to feeding your fellow cow-hands and keeping them busy with some horsing around, we've got everything you'll need for the coolest party this side of the wild, wild west.

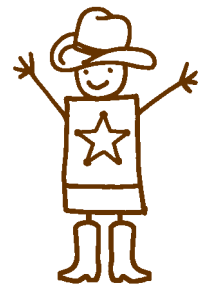
ACTIVITY How to make shiny sheriff badges

Ingredients

- Thin card
- Silver foil
- Glue
- Safety pins
- Sticky tape

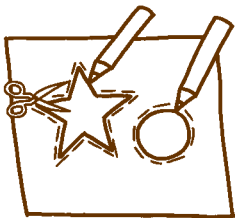
Equipment

- Pencils
- Scissors
- Felt pens



Instructions

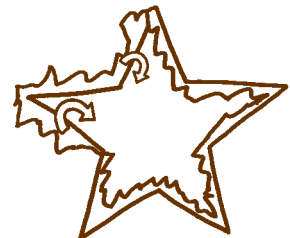
- 1** Give each of your party guests a sheet of thin card and ask them to draw a star shape and a circle which is small enough to fit inside the star. Cut both shapes out



- 2** Spread glue all over one side of the cardboard star and then wrap a piece of foil around it.



- 3** Tuck the foil carefully between each point on your stars and stick the ends in place at the back.



- 4** Ask everyone to write the word 'sheriff' followed by their name on the card circle, for example, if your name is Charlie, write 'Sheriff Charlie'.



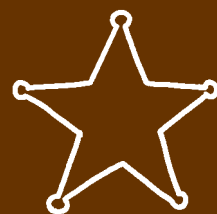
- 5** Stick the circle on top of the shiny foil star.



- 6** To finish off your sheriff badges, attach a safety pin to the back with a piece of sticky tape, and then wear with pride!



! Ask an adult to help with pinning the badges on.



TOP TIP:

This is a great activity to do at the start of your party, so guests can wear their sheriff badges for the rest of the afternoon or evening. If any of the visiting cowboys or cowgirls don't know each other, it also means everyone will know who everyone else is.

DRINK

How to make cactus juice



Ingredients

- 1 ripe avocado
- 1 lime
- 2 Granny Smith apples
- 500ml apple juice
- 20 mint leaves
- 1 cup of ice

Equipment

- Small knife
- Chopping board
- Measuring jug
- Cup
- Blender
- Glasses

Instructions

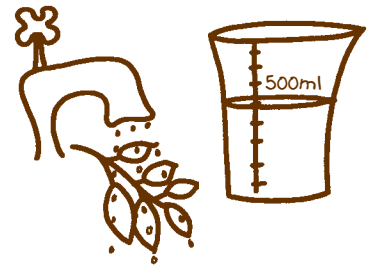
- 1 Peel the avocado and take the stone out. Cut the flesh into chunks.



- 2 Chop both apples into quarters, but don't peel them. Use a small knife to cut the core out of the centre of each piece.



- 3 Wash the mint leaves and measure out 500ml of ready-made apple juice.



- 4 Squeeze the juice from a lime and spoon a tablespoonful into your blender.



- 5 Add the avocado, apples, mint leaves, apple juice and a cupful of ice cubes to the blender.



- 6 Mix until smooth, and then pour into glasses.



ALTERNATIVE:



If you don't have a blender, make your green cactus juice by using ready-made apple juice mixed with freshly-squeezed lime juice.

Add green food colouring to a jug of water and then pour into ice cube trays and freeze. Half fill your glasses with the green ice cubes and pour the apple-lime juice drink on top.

DECORATION Cowboy-shirt bunting



Ingredients

- Medium-weight cardboard
- Gingham fabric in different colours
- Ribbon
- Glue

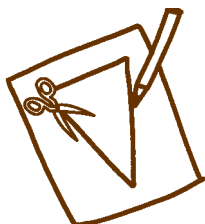
Equipment

- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors

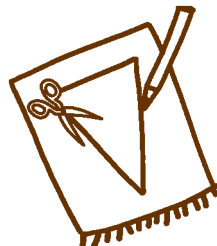


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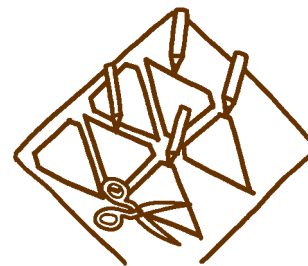
- 1** Draw a triangle onto a piece of card – it needs to be about 15cm tall and 10cm across the top (see pic ref) – and then cut it out.



- 2** Place the triangle template on a piece of gingham fabric and draw around it lightly in pencil. Cut the fabric triangle out.



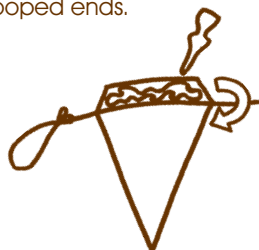
- 3** Use your template to make as many fabric triangles as you like – twenty is a good number to begin with.



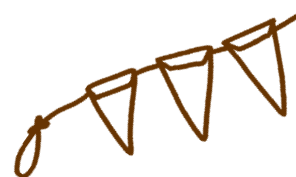
- 4** Cut a 2.5m length of ribbon and wrap one end around your hand. Tie a knot and then slide it off your hand. Make a loop at the other end in exactly the same way.



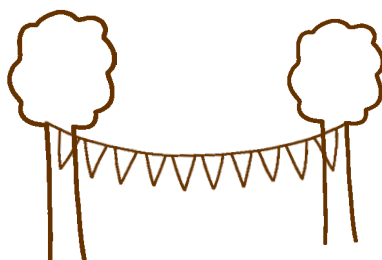
- 5** Lie the length of ribbon down flat in front of you. Spread some glue along the top edge of one gingham fabric triangle and press it onto the ribbon, near one of the looped ends.



- 6** Stick the other triangles on in the same way, leaving a small gap between each one. Leave the glue to dry.



- 7** You can string your finished bunting up indoors, outdoors or make enough to do both. Hook the looped ends around tree branches outside or attach them to the edge of a shelf or a curtain pole inside and allow the gingham flags to flutter.



TOP TIP:

Don't worry if your gingham fabric frays a little bit at the raw edges – it's all part of the rough'n'ready cowboy shirt look!

FOOD Cow print plates, bowls and cups

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DECORATION

Ingredients

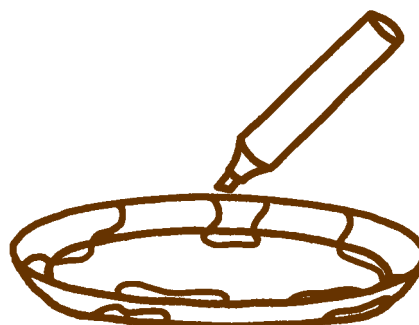
- Plain white paper plates, bowls and cups

Equipment

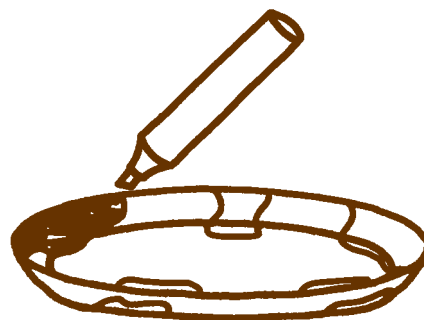
- Pencil
- Black and brown non-toxic marker pens

Instructions

1 Draw the outline of a cow print pattern around the edges of a paper plate. It can be as random and uneven as you like.



2 Use a black or brown marker pen to fill in the pattern, leaving plenty of white bits showing for a cool two-tone cow.



3 Decorate all of your plates, bowls and cups the same way, drawing the cow prints freehand so they all look unique and different.



GAME

Pin the moustache on the cowboy/
Pin the plaits on the cowgirl

Ingredients

- Large piece of paper or card
- Scrap of thick card
- Ball of brown wool
- Two 20cm lengths of narrow ribbon
- Sticky-tac

Equipment

- Pencil
- Crayons, felt pens or coloured pencils
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Blindfold (a folded scarf, handkerchief or piece of material is fine, but a rolled-up cowboy-style bandana is even better!)

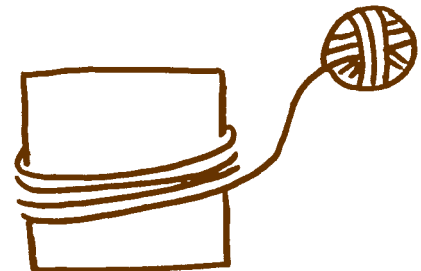


Instructions

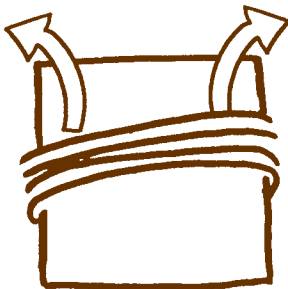
1 The day before your party, take two big pieces of paper or card and draw a cowboy's face on one and the face of a cowgirl on the other. Give the cowgirl a fringe, but no hair at the sides of her head. Don't draw a beard or moustache on the cowboy. Colour in both faces.



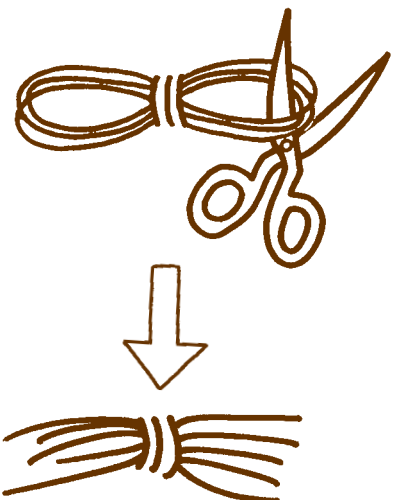
2 To make the cowboy's moustache, cut a 10cm square of thick cardboard. Pull the end from your ball of wool and begin wrapping it around the cardboard. Wrap over and over in the same direction 30-40 times and then snip the end off the wool.



3 Cut a 20cm length of wool from your ball and keep it nearby. Very carefully slide the wrapped wool off your cardboard square. Hold it together in a bunch, and then pick up your 20cm piece of wool and tie it around the middle. Knot tightly to secure.



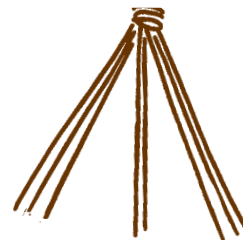
4 You should now have a bundle of wool, tied in the middle with lots of looped pieces at either end. Snip through each of these loop ends to make a fuzzy, droopy cowboy moustache.



- 5** Cowgirls obviously don't have moustaches, so you need to make a pair of plaits for her. For each one, cut 30 pieces of wool, each measuring 50cm long and one extra 20cm piece.



- 6** Gather the 30 pieces in a neat bundle and tie them together at the top with the extra piece of wool. Then, split them into three groups of ten strands and start plaiting.



- 7** When you reach the end of the plait, tie a piece of ribbon around the wool ends to hold them in place.



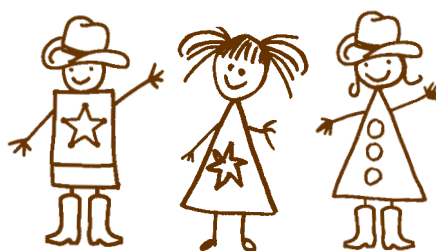
- 8** Make a second plait in the same way.



- 9** Attach the cowboy and cowgirl pictures to a wall with sticky-tac. Add an extra blob to the back of each plait at the top and to the back of the moustache in the centre.



- 10** To play the game at your party, ask your guests to line up and take their turn. As you've got two pictures, two people can play at the same time and no-one has to wait as long for their turn. Blindfold the players and help them to turn around on the spot three times.



- 11** Hand the player the cowboy moustache or cowgirl plaits and then stand them in front of the right picture (make sure you don't get them muddled up!). The blindfolded player has to press the moustache or plaits onto the picture in the place they think it should go. The winner is the person who gets closest to right spot.

