

Egg decorating

Create egg masterpieces with this fun family memory-making activity. The fun is doing it together!

Age Group: All ages (children will require adult supervision)

Activity instructions and supplies:

You can use blown eggs or hard-boiled. Blown eggs are more fragile than hard-boiled.

Blown eggs:

- To blow out the contents of a raw egg: poke a hole at each end of the egg with a large needle like a darning needle.
- Twist the needle around inside the egg until the yoke is broken.
- Blow hard through the hole on top, collecting the contents of the egg in a small dish.
- Rinse out the eggshells carefully and allow them to air dry thoroughly before decorating.

Hard-boiled eggs:

- Gently boil eggs in water for about 15 minutes.
- Health reminder – do not eat hard-boiled eggs that have not been refrigerated or decorated with acrylic spray

Pen-designed eggs

- Several eggs (blown or hard-boiled)
- Fine-tipped felt markers in a variety of colours
- Clear acrylic spray
- Yarn or ribbon

Decorate with simple doodles and unique designs. To avoid smudges, start at the center of the egg. After your drawings are completely dry, spray with clear acrylic (adult supervision required) for a

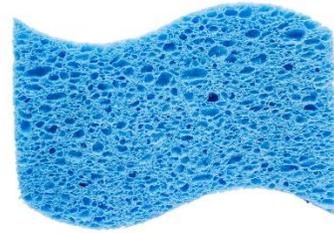




permanent finish. If you'd like to display your eggs by hanging them, glue a loop of yarn or ribbon to the top of your egg.

Sponge ware eggs

- Several eggs (blown or hard-boiled)
- Brown, green, blue tempera or any acrylic paint
- 3 paper cups (one for each paint colour) or plastic containers
- Small pieces of sponge or foam
- 6 spring-type clothespins (one for each paint colour)
- Newspaper
- Clear spray acrylic (optional)



Cover your workspace with newspaper. Place your egg in an egg cup. Clip a piece of sponge to a clothespin as a handle, dip the sponge lightly into a paper cup partially filled with paint. (Note: a little paint goes a long way!). Lightly dab the sponge all over the top half of the egg. Let dry. Turn egg over and repeat for bottom half. Option: when dry, spray the egg with clear acrylic for a permanent finish (adult supervision)

Marble eggs with crayons (adult supervision strongly recommended)

- Several eggs (blown or hard-boiled)
- Glass jar (pint size or larger)
- Hot water (almost boiling)
- Crayon stubs, paper peeled back
- Vegetable grater
- Spoon
- Paper towels or newspaper
- Empty egg carton
- Clear spray acrylic (optional)



Grate crayons over paper towel or newspaper. The adult in charge fills jars with very hot (nearly boiling) water. Drop pinches of grated crayon into the water, and as soon as the wax begins to melt,



add egg, being careful not to spill water out of the jar. Using a spoon, twirl egg in water. The wax will make a design on the shell. Carefully remove the egg and place it in an upside-down egg carton to prevent smearing. Let it dry. Experiment with different colour combinations. Refill jar with clean hot water for each egg. Option: when wax has dried, you may spray with clear acrylic to protect the design.

Colour eggs with natural dyes

- Several eggs (blown or hard-boiled)
- Various food and plant items i.e.
 - Yellow: daffodil petals, saffron, and yellow onion
 - Blue: blueberries
 - Green: broccoli and grass
 - Tan: walnut shells, tea, coffee
- Medium-sized sauce pans (one for each colour)
- Water
- Slotted spoon
- Newspaper
- Strainer
- Cooking oil and soft cloth



Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water into saucepan and add cut-up fruit, vegetable, or plant parts to the water. Bring water to a boil (adult supervision required when using the stove) and simmer until the water turns the colour you wish. Remove from heat and strain, reserving the water. When the water cools, add eggs. Allow eggs to sit in the water until they turn the desired colour (some colours may be quite subtle in comparison to commercial food colouring). Remove eggs with a slotted spoon and let them air dry. Polish dried eggs with a small amount of cooking oil applied to a soft cloth.