Crafts for kids

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Crafts for kids that end with something to keep: a shoebox guitar, a light-up card, a cup telephone, pan pipes from straws, a paper bat or a skeleton hand. Each one has picture steps, a time and the grades it fits, and every craft is free, with no sign-up.

Crafts to make

- Project: Cup Telephone · Minutes: 15 · Grades: K–3rd · What it shows: Sound is a shake, and a tight string can carry the shake from one cup to the other.
- Project: Straw Pan Pipes · Minutes: 20 · Grades: K–4th · What it shows: A long tube of air makes a low note, and a short tube makes a high note.
- Project: Shoebox Guitar · Minutes: 30 · Grades: K–3rd · What it shows: A tighter, thinner band wiggles faster and sounds higher.
- Project: Light-Up Card · Minutes: 45 · Grades: 3rd–8th · What it shows: Electricity only flows round a full loop: one gap and the light goes out.
- Project: Tube Flashlight · Minutes: 40 · Grades: 3rd–8th · What it shows: A switch is a gap in the loop that you can open and close.
- Project: Flapping Paper Bat · Minutes: 30 · Grades: K–6th · What it shows: Each wing is a lever: a small pull on its short end makes a big flap at the long end.
- Project: Dancing Tissue Ghost · Minutes: 20 · Grades: K–8th · What it shows: Rubbing a balloon gives it static electricity, and static pulls on a light paper ghost.
- Project: Spooky Shadow Theatre · Minutes: 45 · Grades: K–8th · What it shows: Light goes in straight lines, so a puppet that blocks it throws a shadow.
- Project: Glowing Jack-o'-Lantern Card · Minutes: 40 · Grades: 4th–8th · What it shows: A circuit is a loop: close it and the light glows, open it and it goes dark.
- Project: Skeleton Hand · Minutes: 40 · Grades: 1st–8th · What it shows: Fingers bend when a muscle pulls a tendon, a strong string that runs to each fingertip.

More to make and draw

- Activity: Coloring pages · What kind: Make · What a child does: Pictures to color on screen or print for the table. · Ages: 3 to 10
- Activity: How to draw · What kind: Make · What a child does: Step-by-step drawings to copy onto paper. · Ages: 5 and up
- Activity: The Rainy Day Box · What kind: Make · What a child does: Cards of forts, crafts, games and experiments with things most homes have, each saying how long, how messy and what a grown-up does. · Ages: 3 and up
- Activity: STEM projects · What kind: Explore · What a child does: Builds and experiments with things from the recycling and the kitchen. · Ages: 6 and up

Every craft lists what you need before you start, and a grown-up helps with anything sharp. Everything here is free through the end of 2026, with no ads, no sign-up and nothing to download.

Questions parents ask

What are good crafts for kids to make at home?

Start with the quick ones: a cup telephone or pan pipes from straws take about twenty minutes and use things most homes have. A light-up card or a shoebox guitar takes longer and is worth keeping.

How long do the crafts take?

From 15 minutes to about 45. The Minutes column in the table says how long each one takes.

What ages are they for?

About 5 to 12. The Grades column says which grades each craft fits, and younger children can do it with a grown-up.

Are these crafts free?

Yes. Everything here is free through the end of 2026, with no ads, no sign-up and nothing to download.

Free at peabody.kids/crafts-for-kids