Disclaimer

We hope the information on our website and resources is useful. It is your responsibility to note that some ingredients and/or materials used might cause allergic reactions or health problems and to ensure that you are fully aware of the allergies and health conditions of those taking part. If you have any concerns about your own or somebody else's health or wellbeing, always speak to a qualified health professional. Remember, activities listed within the resource should always be supervised by an appropriate adult.

Shoebox Nativity



You will need:

- Shoebox (one per group)
- Paint (in brown and skin tones)
- Paintbrushes
- Cardboard tubes (one per child, or six per group)
- Polystyrene balls (one per child, or six per group)
- Polystyrene egg (one per group)
- Different coloured felt
- Shredded yellow/brown tissue paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Gold or yellow cardboard
- Decorations, such as sequins
- White glue
- Glue spreaders
- Black marker pen
- Scissors

Instructions

1. This activity is best completed in groups of six or seven children.
2. Remove the lid from your shoebox. You could keep this so you can store your Nativity when it is not in use.
3. Paint your shoebox brown all over. This will be the stable.
4. Give each child a cardboard tube and polystyrene ball. The children will need to decide which model they are going to make: Mary, Joseph, one of the Three Wise Men or the Angel Gabriel. The child making baby Jesus will need the polystyrene egg and won't need a cardboard tube. If you have more than six children in your group, they could make an additional Wise Man or shepherd.
5. Paint the polystyrene ball/egg in a skin tone. Then, wait for it to dry.

6. Once the ball is completely dry, it needs to be attached to the body. Add some white glue around the open end of the cardboard tube and carefully press the ball on top of it. Hold it in place for a few minutes to allow it to dry.
7. Then, take a piece of felt and wrap it around the cardboard tube, like a cloak. Add some glue at the back to fix it in place. Do the same for the polystyrene egg, to wrap baby Jesus in a blanket.
8. Place a smaller piece of felt on your model's head. Then, wrap a pipe cleaner around the head to hold it in place.
9. For the Angel Gabriel, you'll need to glue the hair in place. Then, make a loop from the pipe cleaner and carefully push one end into the polystyrene ball. This is the angel's halo.
10. Once your model is dry, it's time to decorate it. Use a black marker pen to add the eyes, nose and mouth to your model's face.
11. Stand the shoebox on its side and add the shredded tissue paper to the bottom. This is the straw.
12. Stand your finished models up and display your Nativity!