

WORKSHOP: "ORNAMENTS"

Summary: We will create ornaments in several ways including 1) tying ribbons on driftwood; 2) filling clear bulbs with found materials, suspended origami cranes and writing on them with oil paint markers; and 3) adding wood shapes to log slices.

Materials and Equipment:

sewing thread for driftwood tree
coloured ribbons for driftwood tree
wire edged ribbons for driftwood tree
coloured yarn to hang bulbs
1 piece of driftwood 8-10" long
button for driftwood tree
clear plastic bulbs with removable metal tops
coloured sands
oil paint marker
wood glue
coloured wire to hang log slices
wood laser cut-outs
log slices
mini plywood triangles
funnel or paper to twist into one

glue gun
glue gun glue
coated gloves for working with hot glue
scrap cardboard for under your glue gun
pliers/cutters
paint brush – small
plastic lids for palettes
acrylic paints, assorted colours
wood skewer and craft stick
scissors
sewing needle and thread
safety glasses
mini origami cranes
instructions/ideas sheet

optional: found objects that fit through a space 3/8" wide:

e.g. paper cranes, confetti, shredded paper in various colours, Styrofoam bits, beads, ribbons, scraps of colourful paper like wrapping paper

Class Plan: Clear Bulbs

1. Remove the metal tops from your bulbs by squeezing the metal wire piece together gently and pulling..
2. Add materials to the insides of your bulbs to create a scene or something else of your choice. Things like origami cranes can squeeze flat to fit through the top.
3. Draw on the outside of your bulb with an oil paint marker. Acrylic paint markers also work, but the paint can scratch off more easily. If you need to remove oil paint marker to change your design, use nail polish remover on a cloth and rub gently.
4. Replace the metal top of your bulb and use a coloured yarn or thread to make a loop to hang it up.



5. Ideas:

- a. We used thin ribbons inside a bulb to simulate swirls of snow, added white sand to the bottom and drew snowflakes on the outsides with the oil paint marker.
- b. We were thinking about beaches and sand too, so one bulb we added blue sand and origami cranes inside and drew the sunshine on the outside.
- c. Another idea is to cut up an old CD in small pieces with scissors (and wearing safety glasses). Then hot glue the pieces in a mosaic on the outside of the bulb. Pliers help for hold the pieces while working, and wearing coated gloves to protect your hands.

Class Plan: Tree of Ribbons

1. Take your driftwood piece and choose a selection of pretty coloured ribbons of different widths and colours. Ribbons with wire edges work very well because they can be shaped.
2. Tie short pieces of ribbon to your driftwood, knotting each piece and leaving the ends sticking out on either side of the driftwood.
 - a. Work from longer pieces of ribbon at the bottom, with progressively shorter pieces towards the top.
 - b. Tie all the knots from the same side to make a nice trunk shape on one side.
3. Trim your ribbons on an angle to look like the shape of a tree.
4. Use hot glue or needle and thread to attach a gold button to the top of your tree.



5. Tie a coloured yarn or thread around the driftwood just under the gold button to make a loop to hang up your tree.

Class Plan: Log Slices

1. Take your log slice with the bark ring around it and choose a few small wood cut out shapes.
2. Notice where the hole to hang the log slice is, because that will be the top. Position your pieces so they are the right way up.
3. Paint part or your entire wood cut out shape to highlight it if you like.

4. Glue a cut out shape or two on each side of the log slice using wood glue. Use a craft stick to help apply the glue. A skewer is useful to help position the shapes and remove any extra glue if needed.



5. Fit a green wire through the hole in the log slice. Use the pliers to twist the wires together close to their ends but leaving a little extra wire beyond the end of the twist.
 - a. Wrap the extra wire one pieces at a time around a pencil or skewer in a spiral. Then remove the skewer to leave decorative spiral ends.

Class Plan: Snowman Heads

1. Optional: Take one of your log slices and remove the bark ring from it.



2. Paint your log slice with white acrylic paint.
 - a. We did two coats of paint.
 - b. You can also coat it with sludge primer first, but we just painted ours directly.
 - c. Drying can be sped up using a hair dryer.
3. Paint one of your small plywood triangles orange for a nose and allow it to dry.
4. Use the high initial tack wood glue provided to attach a nose to the log slice.
5. Use the handle end of your paint brush dipped in black acrylic paint to make dots for eyes and a mouth. Swirling the brush handle end around in one place makes a wider circle for bigger eyes.
6. Fit a thread or thin decorative yarn through the hole in the log slice and tie knot against the edge of the log slice and a second knot at the ends of your yarn to hang up your snowman head.

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- A small long thin piece of fabric could be glued on the bottom of the log slice to add a scarf to the snowman head ornament.
- Dry wood logs were sawed into $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick slices and cooked in the oven for 3 hours at 200 degrees F to ensure safety for indoor use. Be present while cooking the slices for safety.
- Gathered driftwood was boiled in water for 3 hours to ensure safety for indoor use.
- Try using printouts of festive writing to use as size gauges for writing on clear bulbs with oil paint markers.

Trouble Shooting:

- If you want to remove the oil paint marker writing from your bulb, rub it gently with a cloth dipped in nail polish remover.
- We tried out spray snow but it wipes off too easily, so we decided not to use this. There are flocking powders activated by water that dry more permanently but we didn't use them because we wanted the snow inside the clear bulbs. Something to try out next time.