

Back
to
School
2019

Trick Out Their Supplies

Nothing drums up motivation for homework like a fanciful folder to keep things organized! Decorate all your kids' classroom gear with these easy, on-trend DIY projects.

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Fruity Pickings

1—FRESH FOLDERS

For a watermelon, place **green duct tape** (Duck Tape in Sage, \$4; duckbrand.com) along the bottom of a **pink folder** and add a strip of ¼-in.-thick **white washi tape** on top of the green to create the rind. For a pineapple, stick the duct tape onto a smooth counter or a plastic cutting board, and draw a zigzag. As you lift off the tape, cut along the zigzag with **scissors**, then stick the tape along the top edge of a **yellow folder**. Use a **black marker** to draw on teardrop-shaped watermelon seeds or V shapes to mimic a pineapple's spiky appearance.

2—SWEET PENCIL CASES

Use a **pencil** to draw the outline of a fruit (such as a lemon, orange, strawberry, or pear) onto a **white plastic eraser** like a Staedtler; then use an **X-Acto knife** to carve away the area around the shape. Place a piece of **scrap cardboard** inside a **canvas pencil case** (Baotongle Canvas Pencil Pouches, \$11 for ten; amazon.com) to stop the paint from bleeding through. Spread a thin layer of **craft paint** onto a **disposable plate**, dip the handmade stamp into the paint, and press it all over the pencil case. When the paint is dry, add details like seeds or stems with a **brush**.

INSTANT CRAFT!
Wrap fruit-patterned washi tape around white pencils.



Ocean Finds

1—NARWHAL NOTEBOOK

With a **glue stick**, attach a sheet of **light-blue scrapbook paper** to the cover of a **composition notebook**; trim any excess. Print the template at parents.com/narwhal and cut out the narwhal. Trace it onto **dark-blue felt** and cut out. Repeat with the semicircle from the template, using **pale-blue felt**; with **craft glue**, attach to the narwhal as shown. To make the face, cut out two eyes from **black**

felt and a mouth from **red felt**; attach with craft glue. **Hot-glue** the narwhal onto the cover, leaving a gap in the center for a pencil (its tusk).

2—SEA-CREATURE CLIPS

To make a mermaid, start with the **clothespin's** clip end pointing down. Paint on a tail (clip end), a bikini top, eyes, and a mouth using **craft paint**. Print and cut out tail template from

parents.com/clothespin-tails.

Trace onto **felt** and cut out; attach to the bottom of pin with **craft glue**. Glue 6-in. strands of **yarn** to the top of clothespin for hair. For the shark, use white **craft paint** for the belly, blue for the body, and red for the mouth. Trace shark fin and tail templates onto **blue felt**; cut out and attach with craft glue. Stick a **self-adhesive magnet** (Hygloss Products Inc. Magnetic Tape,

\$6.50; amazon.com) to the back of each clothespin. Trim excess.

3—FISHIE ERASERS

Use a **rolling pin** to roll **eraser clay** (\$12; ooly.com) until $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, cut out shapes with **mini cookie cutters** (Adorn Life Cookie Cutters, \$9; amazon.com), and freeze for 5 minutes. Poke with a **toothpick** for the eye, and bake following package instructions.



INSTANT CRAFT!
Cover a notebook or a folder with metallic-foil star stickers.

Celestial Equipment

1—MOON BOOKMARKS

Roll a mix of **white** and **gray clay** (Translucent and Elephant Gray Sculpey Clays, \$3 for 2 oz.; michaels.com) into a ball. Stretch for a marbled effect. Then divide into ¼-in. balls and use your thumb to press into flat, 1-in. circles. Push a **jumbo paper clip** into each circle, as shown, so the tip is hidden in the clay, and press gently to secure it. To make craters, gently press the flat end of a **wood skewer** into the clay. Bake following package instructions.

2—STELLAR CRAYONS

Place about **9 unwrapped, broken crayons** in each well of a **star-shaped silicone mold** (Jolly Jon Star Shaped Silicone Molds, \$14; amazon.com). Bake at 225°F for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the wax has melted. Make planets in a standard metal muffin tin; bake at 200°F for about 25 minutes. Let cool.

3—MILKY WAY CASES

Brush a thin layer of **dark-blue paint** onto a **disposable plate**. Dip a **sponge** into the paint, then dab onto a **pencil case** (Baotong Canvas Pencil Pouch in Black, \$14 for ten; amazon.com), using diagonal strokes. Repeat with two more shades of **blue paint**, starting with the darker hue and adding the lighter one on top. Let dry. For stars, dilute **white craft paint** with water to a heavy cream-like consistency. Dip a **brush** into the paint, wipe most of it off, and tap the side of the brush with another brush over paper to practice a splatter effect. Once you have a feel for how to make the right size dots, splatter the pencil case.

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BUY THE MATERIALS
Hover your phone's camera over the smart code to buy the supplies you need at our Amazon shop.

