

Egg-less Decorations for Easter



Pretty in the sunshine but sadly, no good for the rain!

Nature's own beauty

Anyone that has experienced some of the Museum's Outreach Activities will know that we often use what is around us, kindly created by 'Mother Nature' and free (but please ask first if it isn't growing in your own garden or if it might be precious!). Here are a few ideas...



1



2



3



4

- 1 Teasel head hanging from thread with a ribbon bow. No ribbon? Do you have clothes with those ribbon hanging -up loops on them? They are great to carefully snip off for projects like this!!

- 2 Rosemary brings in a beautiful scent and is said to help memory (good for exams, people affected by dementia etc). Other 'firm leaved' herbs could include bay, lavender stems, eucalyptus etc). Just hang sprigs up with some thread and a simple bow
- 3 Traditional decorations for the home included pussy willow and the **very poisonous** yew which resembled the palms of Palm Sunday. Greenery inspires a sense of well-being and can create a 'new' feel or look in a room
- 4 Flowers popping up in the garden can be hung from branches in small, purpose made hanging vases or in any small, lightweight container (some of those plastic pots that are good for recycling or something like an old-fashioned meat paste jar perhaps?). They can be filled with water, suspended using strong thread, thin wire or string and a few dainty stems added. Keep topping up the water over the coming weeks. Alternatively, little bottles, jars or egg cups on a table can look really pretty and show off small flowers.

As has been done for many years in some European countries, why not make an 'Easter Tree' by cutting some branches and putting them in water in a big vase, jar or jug that won't topple over when you have all the things you've made hanging off them? I sometimes put stones in the bottom of my jar for this reason. Top up with water until Easter is over but in the meanwhile, place your Easter Tree in a safe spot for everyone to see (pets from a distance) and admire your creativity!

Cardboard eggs

If you find yourself without easy access to eggs, you might still like to have cardboard eggs hanging off your Easter Tree. There's no limit to what you can create but here are a few step-by-step ideas



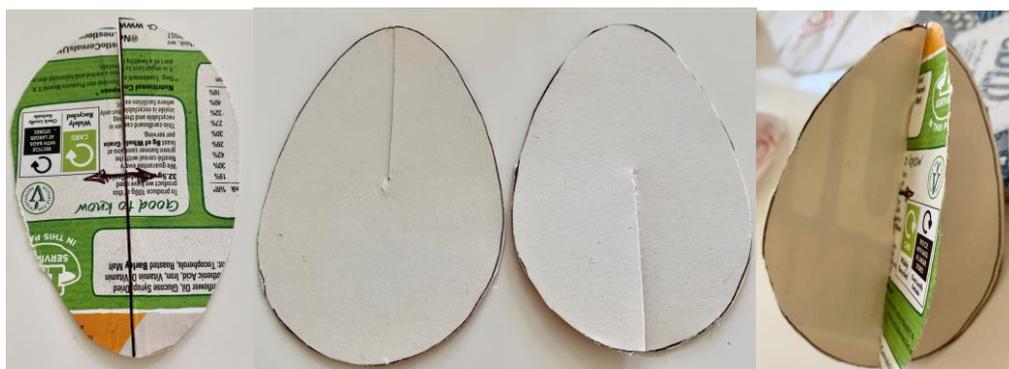
1

2

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1. Basic decorated card egg (and egg template)

Cut yourself an egg template out from an old cereal packet. It is quite important that it is symmetrical so, pencil sketch your first attempt at an egg shape, improve it and then, in biro, draw the outline of half of the egg (top to bottom). My eggs are about 15cm from tip to base (other sizes are perfectly egg-ceptable!). Cut along this line then fold it over (where the long black line is in picture A below), draw the other side of the egg then cut it out and fold it again to check that both sides of the egg match EGG_ACTLY. Then using a ruler, measure the mid-point of this line and mark it (smaller line with arrow heads either end in A). Take time to get this right. I have guessed and it makes a shabby egg. If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail!



A

B

C

Look at B first. Cut out two eggs and then, accurately, cut from the **top** along the centre line to the mid-point on ONE TEMPLATE. On the other template, cut from the **bottom** up to the mid-point. Take your time to be accurate.

C Slide one part of the egg onto the other (either top down or bottom up) by lining up the slits and pushing them together. You have your basic cardboard egg.

Note: If you mass-produce cardboard eggs, take it from someone who has made this mistake; mass cutting a pile of cardboard egg templates to try to save time is foolishness itself- cuts go wobbly/too long/too short and the eggs won't sit right. You may well find yourself with time on your hands allowing you to get this step absolutely perfect so; please do just that and leave me as the only person with egg on my face for having done the opposite!

Decorating 1, 2 & 3 above

1. I actually glued two templates together and then another two so that there were plain bits of the card showing and not the print. Because I'd found some star-patterned wrapping paper in my recycled wrap drawer, I used the star theme and felt-tipped stars all over the templates. I then cut out a lot of the stars and put them ready for the next stage. Then I slotted the egg together, ready to sew the top to make the hanger. Use a needle and thread for this bit.

Using old wrapping paper is really handy. I covered the egg with some recycled paper, covered all sides of the card with glue, put the paper on, cut around the edge, re cut the central slits and slid the two halves together. I sewed the egg together (see next page) and made a tassel (see 'Decorating ideas for eggs inc. home-made cord')



If you are super-observant, you'll see that this is not the star-decorated egg that I've been describing so far BUT the technique is the same.

Use whatever you have for inspiration- stars, dinosaurs, rockets- not just stars!

Thread a needle with about 40cm of strong thread such as double ordinary sewing thread or some wool (if the eye of the needle is big enough) or two strands of embroidery thread. Do NOT tie a knot at the end of the thread.

Leaving a long end, literally sew all four tips of the egg by pushing the needle in and then pulling it out the other side, in then out, in then out and finally, in then out. Tie the short end of thread to the long end in a small knot at the top of the egg. Get your cut-out stars and thread the needle through each one so they're in a stack on the thread. Make a loop to hang the egg from by making a knot just above the top of the stars. Trim your ends- but not too closely to your knots in case they come undone.

2. Tissue-filled egg

You know what I did to do stages A, B and C above. Next, I used some tissue from a cheese delivery (true- other cheese places are available!) and folded it really neatly so that I had a little pad of lots of pieces in a pile.



I



II



III

- I Use an egg template to get the correct size for the tissue
- II Check you have an even number of tissue eggs for all four sections. I used five in each section so I made 20
- III Fold them in half then stitch along the fold carefully



IV



V



VI

- IV Stitch back again from the other side
- V Glue one section of the egg along where the two parts join and on both surfaces. Fold your 'tissue egg book' in half so you can get the stitching right in to the corner and press right in and then smooth the outer sheets of tissue so that they stick to the two faces of the cardboard egg. Do this for all four sections.
- VI Just as we did with the star egg, sew the top of the egg then either use some confetti or beads or make some daisies and leaves to make the egg more exciting

You can do whatever you like, make eggs all the same size or do some big and some smaller. You could paint them or add eco-friendly glitter. You could sponge them or cover them in old-man's beard or....

Have fun, the sky is the limit.

PS - Don't forget to keep them for next year and the year after and the year after!

*Written & images by Heather, Outreach Officer
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