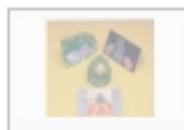


Crafty Ideas: **Decorative Easter Eggs and 3D Cards**

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Plaster Easter eggs, decorated in a range of styles



Eggs, as a symbol of new life, have long been associated with Easter in many different cultures. For Christians there is a long tradition of giving decorated eggs and more recently chocolate eggs as Easter gifts.

Decorative eggs can be made in many ways, painting hardboiled or blown hens eggs or decorating moulded plaster or papier mâché. This activity involves casting eggs to decorate for Easter displays and gifts and to use in Easter cards.

You will need:

- Packaging from Easter egg boxes
- Bowls and dishes
- Plaster
- Wire rack
- Sponges and paintbrushes
- Water colour and acrylic paint
- Gold spray paint
- Felt tip pens
- Ribbons and wrapping paper
- Coloured card

Use

A creative seasonal activity.

Make

To make the eggs:

- Arrange the plastic moulds inside bowls or dishes so that they don't tip over when filled with plaster.
- Mix up the plaster, and pour some into each mould, making sure that the top is level.
- When the plaster is set turn the eggs out of the moulds and leave them on a wire rack. Allow them to dry out completely before decorating.

Decoration techniques:

- For a pretty naturalistic effect, sponge-print with two or three watercolours, (as shown above on the egg in the nest, the bow-tied egg and the blue lace-trimmed egg).
- Spray eggs that have relief patterns with gold paint.
- Make patterns on eggs with felt tips.
- Make a face by sponge-printing and gluing on decorative oddments.
- Create a collage over the surface of the egg with cut pieces of bright wrapping paper.

3D Cards:

- Use 5cm plastic egg-moulds to cast shapes for chicks, rabbits or Humpty Dumpty.
- Sponge-print in soft colours when dry and glue onto a stand up card background.

Tip

Half eggs can also make good paperweights for Easter gifts. Write a message on card and glue it to the back. This makes a refreshing alternative to a standard card.

Display

There are lots of ways to display the finished eggs. Make nests or baskets for them or pop them into egg cups. Or hide them around the room if they are going to be part of an Easter egg hunt!

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