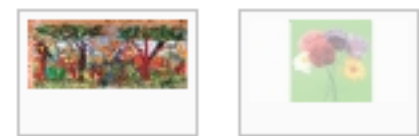


Crafty Ideas: Fabric Flowers

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Fabric flowers can bring an extra dimension to wall hangings



Fabric flowers can be very quick and cheap to make yet look really effective.

Once your children have mastered the technique, encourage them to experiment with different sizes, colours and textures.

You will need:

- Oddments of fabric
- Needles and sewing thread
- Various buttons
- Large wooden beads for the backs of the flowers
- Lengths of craft, garden or florist's wire
- Round objects or craft templates to draw around, no smaller than 15cm in diameter.

Use

This activity can be used to make arrangements that made lovely original gifts – ideal for Mother's Day – or to create brilliant 3D fabric flowers for use on wall hangings, as part of stage props or on other displays.

Make

- ➔ Cut out a large circle of fabric. Sew a running stitch around the edge of the circle. Do not fasten off. Draw up the running thread until the edges of the circle are drawn into the centre. Flatten out the now reduced circle. Stitch from front to back through the centre several times and fasten off the thread.
- ➔ Choose a large button and cut out a circle of fabric a little larger than this. Sew around the circle and draw up as before but this time, slip the button into the 'bag' before fastening off. Sew seed beads and other small beads onto the surface of the covered button to create texture. When finished, sew the button onto the centre of the gathered flower. Alternatively, simply sew on an appropriate coloured button.
- ➔ Push a length of wire through a large wooden bead and twist the wire to secure it. Make sure there is still sufficient room to pass the needle through the bead. Then sew the fabric flower onto the wired bead.

Tip

To make fuller flowers, sew two or three gathered circles of different sizes together before adding the button.

Display

When you have several flowers you can arrange in vases. Alternatively flowers can be sewn into summery fabric collages like the one shown above.

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