

## **Bubbles**

### **What you'll need:**

- foam plates
- foam cups
- hot knife or craft knife
- yardstick or tape measure
- Glue Dots

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Cut off the rim of the plate.

**Step 2:** Hold the plate down and rotate it to cut out the center of the plate.

**Step 3:** Cut the cup in  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch circles, starting with the rim. (If you cut the bottom first, the cup loses its rigidity.)

**Step 4:** Attach the circles together with Glue Dots in bubble groups.

## **Clam Bowls**

### **What you'll need:**

- 2 bowls
- Glue Dots
- 3 white 3-ounce cups
- duct tape
- scissors
- 2 medium pompoms
- 8-10 ping-pong balls (optional)

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** With the rims of the bowls together, tape a 3- to 4-inch section to create a hinge.

**Step 2:** Crush one 3-ounce cup, and attach it with tape to the inside rim of the bowl near where the hinge is so that the bowls' rims stay open in the front, creating an open mouth.

**Step 3:** Use a Glue Dot to attach a pompom to the inside of each of the remaining 3-ounce cups to create eyes.

**Step 4:** Use Glue Dots to attach the eyes to the top bowl just above the mouth.

**Step 5:** Add ping-pong balls in the bottom of the clam's mouth (the bottom bowl) for fun pearls.

## **Coffee Filter Coral**

### **What you'll need:**

- coffee filters
- food coloring
- plastic or foam plate
- cup of water
- plastic tablecloth
- hot glue gun and glue sticks
- paint stir sticks
- plastic gloves

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Lay out the plastic tablecloth.

**Step 2:** Put gloves on.

**Step 3:** Add 4-5 drops of food coloring in the cup of water. Mix with a stir stick.

**Step 4:** Pour the colored water on the plate.

**Step 5:** Place a stack of 10 filters upside down in the food coloring mixture.

**Step 6:** Continue this process until you have about 50 filters colored.

**Step 7:** Spread out the filters on a plastic tablecloth and allow to dry overnight.

**Step 8:** Lay out the paint stir sticks in a coral branch shape.

**Step 9:** Glue the paint stir sticks together with hot glue to create the coral branch. Let the glue dry.

**Step 10:** Grab one coffee filter, scrunch it up, and hot glue it to the stick. Repeat the process until the stick is covered.

## **Coral Collection**

### **What you'll need:**

Fun supplies like:

- tissue paper
- flower leis
- rolls of tissue paper vine
- cupcake liners
- skewers, kabobs, or roasting sticks
- flat sticks (lath, paint stir sticks or yard sticks work great)
- floral wire
- scissors
- glue sticks
- hot glue gun and glue sticks
- pool noodles
- utility knife or hot knife
- extension cord
- zip ties
- scrap piece of 2-inch foam
- Beach Plastic Backdrop

### **Option 1: Faux Feather Coral**

#### **What you'll do:**

**Begin with 8 pieces of tissue paper 20" long by 8" stacked on top of each other.**

**Step 1:** Fold the stacked tissue paper in half, creating a long, narrow, folded strip.

**Step 2:** Cut a fringed edge on the non-folded side of the tissue paper stack.

**Step 3:** Separate the sheets of the fringe so they are 1-ply.

**Step 4:** Cover the top portion of a skewer with glue.

**Step 5:** Press the tissue paper to the skewer.

**Step 6:** Rough it up.

**Step 7:** Add another layer of fringed tissue paper, attach it to the stick, and separate any fringes that may be stuck together. Repeat until the stick is fluffy and full.

## **Option 2: Cupcake Coral**

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Take a few cupcake liners at a time. Fold them in half and cut a slit in the bottom.

**Step 2:** Cover a skewer with glue.

**Step 3:** Put a little glue in the bottom of each cupcake liner.

**Step 4:** Load the liners one at a time onto the skewer and slide them to the top. Pinch the liner so that it creases a bit, grabbing both the stick and the glue placed inside the liner.

## **Option 3: Long Fringe Coral**

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Fold the tissue paper into long, narrow pieces, about 4x20 inches.

**Step 2:** To create a fringed edge, cut the open edge about every  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, stopping before the fold.

**Step 3:** Grab one piece of fringed tissue paper and a skewer. Starting at the top, add lots of glue to the skewer. Wrap the fringed tissue paper tightly around the stick, adding more glue as you go. Repeat the process until the stick is covered.

## **Option 4: Rock Candy Coral (blue)**

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Begin with a piece of tissue paper 4-6 inches wide and 20 inches long. Fold in half, creating a narrow 20-inch-long strip.

**Step 2:** Fringe the folded edge by cutting every  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch the entire length of the tissue paper strip.

**Step 3:** Pull apart to help open the loops of the fringe. Glue the open edges together.

**Step 4:** Starting at the top, glue the tissue paper onto the stick or skewer, twisting the skewer as you glue down the tissue paper.

## **Option 5: Loopy Coral (light pink)**

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Cut 4-ply pieces of tissue paper, about 4x20 inches.

**Step 2:** Fold the 4-ply in half, and cut a 2½-inch-deep slit every ¼ to ½ inch, creating a fringed edge on the folded edge.

**Step 3:** Separate the 4-ply so that there are 4 single sheets of cut tissue paper.

**Step 4:** To build four at a time, lay out the 4 pieces of tissue paper separately, gently refolding at the fold.

**Step 5:** Glue the cut edges together so that the tissue paper piece stays folded.

**Step 6:** Add glue to non-folded, long cut edge of the tissue paper about ¼ inch from the edge. Place a floral wire on top of the glue. Fold the ¼ inch flap that is created between the edge of the tissue paper and the wire over to cover the wire.

**Step 7:** Bend into desired coral shapes.

#### **Option 6: Flexible Firestick Coral Wire**

**What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Cut a piece of floral wire. Cut a piece of tissue paper vine the same length as the wire.

**Step 2:** Insert the wire in between the layers of the fringe of the tissue paper vine.

**Step 3:** Secure the top and bottom of the fringe with glue. Make sure the bottom has room to insert in the 2-inch foam base.

**Step 4:** Bend the wire into a coral shape.

#### **Option 7: Firestick Coral Flat Stick**

**What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Put hot glue on a flat stick or skewer.

**Step 2:** Wrap tissue paper vine around the stick.

**Step 3:** Stop wrapping before the end of the stick so there's room to insert in the 2-inch foam base.

#### **Option 8: Floral Coral (Wire)**

**What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Cut apart a lei.

**Step 2:** Thread the flowers onto floral wire and secure with hot glue.

**Step 3:** Bend the wire into a coral shape.

### **Option 9: Floral Coral (Stick)**

**What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Carefully cut off the straws from the lei, leaving the string uncut and the flowers threaded on the string.

**Step 2:** Put glue on a skewer, starting at the top.

**Step 3:** Place a flower on the glue and twirl the skewer, keeping the flowers as full as possible.

**Step 4:** Secure the end with more glue.

### **Option 10: Spiky Coral (Single Yellow Pool Noodle)**

**What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Fold a pool noodle and cut it in half.

**Step 2:** Cut long blades from the pool noodle, stopping about 2-3 inches from the end of the pool noodle. (A hot knife works best for cutting, or a serrated knife works too.)

**Step 3:** Attach any loose blades to the pool noodle base using tape or a zip tie.

### **Option 11: Pool Noodle Coral-O's**

**What you'll need:**

- pool noodles
- hot knife
- wooden skewers or long marshmallow roaster sticks
- yardstick or tape measure
- scraps of 2-inch foam
- Beach Plastic Backdrop

**What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Cut 1-inch pool noodle slices.

**Step 2:** Thread slices onto wooden skewers.

### **Assemble into Coral-copia (or a cornucopia of coral)**

**What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Cover a piece of foam with the Beach Sand Plastic Backdrop.

**Step 2:** Make slots with scissors for each coral piece.

**Step 3:** Insert coral into the foam.



## **Floatin' Boat**

### **What you'll need:**

- two 4x8-feet cardboard sheets
- Boat template printout from [group.com/vbsTools](http://group.com/vbsTools)
- overhead projector
- black marker
- utility knife
- Wooden Plastic Table Cover
- clear tape
- duct tape
- hot glue gun and glue sticks
- 6 zip ties (7-inch-long)
- scissors
- 3 or more panels of Water Fabric
- fishing line
- scissors
- straight edge or tape measure
- cutting mat

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Project and trace the boat image onto cardboard the size you want your boat to be. We did ours about 4 feet wide by 7 feet long, with 6-inch sides. (Note: The pieces for the sides start out 9 inches tall but get tabbed and folded to create 6-inch-tall sides.)

**Step 2:** Cut out the cardboard pieces for the bottom and sides of the boat. Every 3 inches, slit the side pieces 3 inches deep to create glue tabs.

**Step 3:** Hot glue the tabs to the bottom of the boat. Alternate gluing one tab on the top of the boat bottom and one tab on the bottom of the boat bottom. If needed, duct tape over any seams to create smooth edges.

**Step 4:** Use a utility knife to cut two small holes 2 inches apart on both sides of the bow of the boat. The holes should be just big enough for a zip tie to fit through. Cut two holes in each corner of the stern of the boat. Loop a zip tie through each set of holes to create a loop to secure the boat to the ceiling. Place duct tape over the bottom of the loop to help hold the zip tie in place and keep it from tearing through the cardboard.

**Step 5:** Cover the bottom and sides of the boat with Wooden Plastic Table Cover, using clear tape to attach. For a more realistic look, add a second layer of wrap on the sides of the boat with the wood grain going in the correct direction. Wood-like detail can be

added to the bottom of the boat by using contrasting brown or black duct tape. Adding brown or black tape can also help hide any seams of the Wooden Plastic Table Cover.

**Step 6:** Tape the Water Fabric to the inside edge of the boat so that it can be fanned out all around the boat.

**Step 7:** To hang the boat from the ceiling, we used three more zip ties that we looped through the metal bars of the drop ceiling and attached fishing line to the zip-tie loops on the boat. We then adjusted the fishing line to the loops in the ceiling so that the boat was level. You may need to find what works for your ceiling.

**Step 8:** Once the boat is hanging, add Water Fabric to the ceiling by placing one end of the short edge of the Water Fabric in the boat and then pinning the other edge in the ceiling. Allow the fabric to fall away from the ceiling 6-8 inches, then pin to the ceiling along the long edge of the fabric. Continue this process all the way around the boat.

**Step 9:** Add Foam Anchor Chain and Foil Anchor to finish your boat. Zip ties work great to attach these to the ceiling or the boat. (See Foam Anchor Chain and Foil Anchor instructions.)

## **Jelly Fish Lantern**

### **What you'll need:**

- paper lantern
- 2-3 different colors of rectangular plastic tablecloths
- crepe paper roll
- curling ribbon
- strands of plastic beads
- scissors
- Glue Dots
- tape measure
- fairy lights (optional)

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Don't unfold the tablecloths. Cut strips from the different colors of tablecloths.

**Step 2:** Unfold the tablecloth strips.

**Step 3:** To create a wavy edge, gently pull the edge of the plastic strip every couple of inches. Pull the entire edge on one side and then do the same to the other side.

**Step 4:** Separate the layers of the tablecloths after you have pulled them.

**Step 5:** Cut 6 feet of crepe paper. Fold it for ease of cutting so that you can cut a few  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch and  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strips 6 feet long.

**Step 6:** Cut about 10 feet of curling ribbon and gently curl.

**Step 7:** Build the lantern with the frame.

**Step 8:** Cover the bottom of the lantern (the side with the smaller hole) with Glue Dots 1 inch apart and up about 2 inches high.

**Step 9:** Attach varying lengths of ribbon and strips of plastic tablecloth, spacing out the colors and textures. We started with the widest strips. Our shortest length was 17 inches, and our longest was 68 inches.

**Step 10:** Attach the beads on the bar of the lantern frame by twisting them over on themselves.

## Lantern Fish

### What you'll need:

- paper lantern
- paper plates (7 or 9 inch)
- large googly eyes (ours were 1½ inch)
- round slice of pool noodle
- scissors
- crayons (with wrapper peeled off)
- Glue Dots
- tape

### What you'll do:

**Step 1:** Color both sides of a paper plate. For great texture, use a crayon on its side.

**Step 2:** Cut the plate in half, then cut it in half again for the tail.

**Step 3:** Build the lantern.

**Step 4:** Glue the backs of the two tail pieces ( $\frac{1}{4}$  of a plate x2) together, leaving the smaller end of the tail unglued. To add the tail to the lantern, put the bar of the small end of the lantern between the pieces of the small end of the tail. Add a Glue Dot to hold the end of the tail to the bar.

**Step 5:** Cut two smaller triangles from the colored paper plate for fins. Fold a tab and use Glue Dots to attach the fins onto each side of the fish.

**Step 6:** Add Glue Dots around the large opening of the lantern to stick the foam slice on as a mouth. Finish with large googly eyes.

## Octopus Lantern

### What you'll need:

- paper lantern
- pool noodles
- serrated knife or hot knife
- 11-inch zip tie
- 2 big googly eyes
- Glue Dots
- scissors

### What you'll do:

**Step 1:** Cut pool noodle eyebrows and mouth from pool noodle scraps, not the same color as the paper lantern used for the body.

**Step 2:** Cut a pool noodle in half, then slice the pool noodle lengthwise in half and then in half again. You'll have 8 strips.

**Step 3:** Gather the strips at one end and zip tie them together.

**Step 4:** Pop out the lantern and insert the metal frame.

**Step 5:** Insert the gathered end of the pool noodles into the wider opening of the lantern.

**Step 6:** Add eyebrows, googly eyes, and mouth.

## **Pier Pillars**

### **What you'll need:**

- Wooden Plastic Table Cover (covers 2 pillars)
- clear packing tape
- scissors
- poster boards (4 sheets per pillar)
- stapler
- 7-inch zip ties (2 per pillar)

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Staple the poster boards together lengthwise, overlapping about 2 inches.

**Step 2:** Roll the stapled pieces into a tube. Get a friend to help you keep the tube rolled while you tape it closed.

**Step 3:** The tube should be about 6-8 feet tall for people to be able to walk underneath it, but it can be as tall as you'd like or need it to be.

**Step 4:** Lay out the Wooden Plastic Table Cover and cut in half lengthwise. Save the other half for one more pier pillar.

**Step 5:** Place the cut Wooden Plastic Table Cover facedown, and lay the tube on top of it.

**Step 6:** Tape the plastic to the tube in multiple places so it is well-attached.

**Step 7:** Tuck the ends of the plastic into the open ends of the tube, and lightly tape in place.

**Step 8:** Repeat the process for as many pillars as needed in your space for a long boardwalk or pier above the water.

**Tip:** Zip ties work well as hanging brackets. Place two zip tie loops at the top of the tube to allow for easy attachment to the foam core of the plank part of the pier.

## **Pier Planks**

### **What you'll need:**

- foam core
- cardboard
- Wooden Plastic Table Cover
- Cool Connectors
- scissors
- utility knife
- blue plastic table runner
- yardstick or straight edge
- cutting mat
- marker
- clear packing tape
- 11" zip ties (we used 6 or more)

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Cut 6-inch x 3-foot planks from the cardboard.

**Step 2:** Cut a piece of Wooden Plastic Table Cover. The wood grain should go the length of the plank.

**Step 3:** Tape the Wooden Plastic Table Cover to the cardboard; no need to cover the back.

**Step 4:** Place the foam core on the bottom, add the blue plastic table runner, then add the planks. You may also press Cool Connectors down through the layers so that the back of the connector is on the back of the foam core.

**Step 5:** Flip the stack over to ensure Cool Connector backs are on securely.

**Step 6:** Add zip tie brackets to hang the pier. Cut two holes in each. Insert a zip tie so the lock of the zip is on the white side of the foam core.

**Step 7:** Repeat the process on each corner and every 3 feet for support.

## **Sea Life Silhouettes**

### **What you'll need:**

- black poster board
- blue plastic table runner
- silhouette pattern from [group.com/vbsTools](http://group.com/vbsTools)
- tape
- scissors
- white crayons
- video projector or overhead projector (for larger silhouettes)

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Place the silhouette pattern on an overhead projector, or use the digital file with a video projector.

**Step 2:** Trace the pattern onto the poster board using white crayon.

**Step 3:** Cut out the silhouettes.

**Step 4:** Hang the blue table runner across the ceiling, and place the silhouettes on the table runner.



## **Seaweed**

### **What you'll need:**

- green plastic tablecloth
- scissors
- yardstick

### **What you'll do:**

**Step 1:** Unwrap the tablecloth, but don't unfold it.

**Step 2:** Cut the tablecloth into 2- to 3-inch-wide strips.

**Step 3:** Pull at the edge every couple of inches on each side of the strip to create wavy edges.

**Step 4:** Attach strips to the ceiling with magnets, tape, etc.

**Tip:** This is a great take-home project!