XPLAy Scotland
Culture Play
Dear Parent and Playworker

As we all know children learn through play and enjoy getting messy.

To help play and learn at the same time about other cultures we have brought together messy play crafts from around the world.

We hope you have fun!

Play Scotland

What you need:
- Black card
- Pencil
- Glue
- Cotton wool balls
- Googly eyes

What to do:
Place your hand flat, fingers open on the black card and draw round with a pencil. Cut your hand print out. Your fingers will be the legs and your thumb the head. Glue the cotton wool balls over the ‘body’. Glue googly eyes on the ‘head’.

Try using different hands to make different sizes of sheep. You could use different coloured card to make different animals.
**Mexican Rattle**

**Mexico**

What you need:
- Empty toilet roll holder
- Lolly pop stick
- Masking tape
- Dry beans or pulses
- Feathers (optional)

**What to do:**
Cover one end of the toilet roll holder with masking tape. Securely tape the lolly pop stick to the inside of the roll. You may wish to use two sticks. Put the beans/pulses into the tube and cover the open end with masking tape. Decorate the rattle with bright paints and leave to dry.

*Try making a green cactus, a parrot or a red chilli rattle!*

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**Sunshine Face**

**Mexico**

What you need:
- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Thick card in orange and yellow, orange and yellow paints
- Googly eyes and pom pom nose (optional)

**What to do:**
Place your hands flat, fingers spread open on paper and draw round these. You will need a few – these are going to be the sun’s rays. Cover or paint your paper plate in yellow. Glue the ‘rays’ round the plate. Add googly eyes, pom pom for the nose and you can paint a smile on the sun if you wish.

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**Fiesta Fun with Papel Picado**

**Mexico**

What you need:
- Tissue paper in various colours in square or rectangle shapes
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- String

**What to do:**
Fold tissue paper in half and draw and cut out your design. Keep the bottom edge fancy. Glue the top to the string and string them up.
What you need:
- A4 paper
- Pencil
- Scissors

What to do:
These are very similar to a snowflake paper cut out but this has 8 sides.

Turn your A4 rectangle paper into a square by folding one corner flush to the other side. Cut off the bottom section which is not required. Open this out; you should now have a square.

Fold your square in half so this makes a rectangle, then fold again to make a square. Now fold in half corner to corner to make a triangle. With a pencil draw a small curved line at the top of the open side of the triangle and cut this off. You should now have a cone shape.

Draw a symmetrical design (same on both sides). Don’t draw any cuts all the way through or you’ll end up with confetti instead of a star. Cut along your design.

Open out and you now have a star.

Try using coloured paper, wrapping paper or painting the paper before you start to get different textures and colours.
**Sunflower**

**France**

**What you need:**
- Card
- Pencil
- Glue
- Yellow and green tissue paper
- Brown tissue paper or sunflower seeds or dried pulses

**What to do:**
Draw the outline of a sunflower and cut out. Tear the tissue paper into small strips (or scrunch into small balls), and stick to sunflower shape. Use the sunflower seeds (or pulses) for the middle of the sunflower.

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**Didgeridoo**

**Australia**

**What you need:**
- Card
- Pencil
- Glue
- Yellow and green tissue paper
- Brown tissue paper or sunflower seeds or dried pulses

**What to do:**
Lightly dampen the card. Place your child’s hand on the card, with fingers open or closed... your choice.
Flick the dry white power paint over the hand and round the paper. You don’t have to cover all of the paper.
Lift the hand and shake off excess paint. You will now have your hand impression.

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**Aboriginal Handprints**

**Australia**

**What you need:**
- Card
- Dry white power paint
- Water and cloth

**What to do:**
Lightly dampen the card. Place your child’s hand on the card, with fingers open or closed... your choice.
Flick the dry white power paint over the hand and round the paper. You don’t have to cover all of the paper.
Lift the hand and shake off excess paint. You will now have your hand impression.

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**Try making different lengths to see what different noises they make.**
**Dreamcatcher**

Native American Indians

What you need:
- Netting bags (you can use ones that hold oranges, etc from the supermarket)
- Round plastic rim – e.g. from ice cream tub
- Coloured wool
- Plastic Darning Needle (craft shop)
- Plastic beads and feathers (craft shop)

**What to do:**
Place the netting bag over the plastic rim and pull tightly so that the netting does not move. Firmly secure this.

Sew the wool round the rim so that all plastic is covered.

Tie double strands of wool at the bottom of the circle and thread beads and tie/glue feathers onto the bottom.

Add a wool loop at the top to hang.

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**Mosaic Craft**

Italy

What you need:
- Card in various colours
- Background paper
- Scissors
- Glue

**What to do:**
Cut your coloured paper into small squares – these do not need to be same size - you can also use triangles.

Glue your coloured shapes onto the background paper to make your picture.

**Try cutting up felt or foam for different textures**

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**Glass Bottle Crafts**

India

What you need:
- Empty glass bottles
- Acrylic craft flat beads / sequins
- Glass Paint
- Glue

**What to do:**
Paint your glass jar and allow to dry.

Glue on your beads and allow to dry.
**Handheld Fan**

**Japan**

What you need:
- A sheet of 12” by 18” (A3) paper in any colour
- Watercolour paint and paintbrush
- Lolly pop stick
- Tape

**What to do:**
Place your paper landscape and draw a half circle from one side to the other and cut off excess. You will now be left with a rainbow shape.

Using your watercolours paint a picture and allow to dry.

Fold the paper back and forth, creasing hard each time.

Gather the paper together to form the fan. Glue or staple the straight edge at the bottom and open out.

Tape the lolly pop stick in one of the middle creases to make a handle.

Your fan is now ready to use.

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**Laurel Crown**

**Greece**

What you need:
- Green thick card or thin card in various green shades
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue

**What to do:**
Cut a strip of green card big enough to fit round your child’s head.

Draw leaf shapes and cut these out.

Glue to the headdress.

*Try painting the leaves gold to make a Golden Headpiece.*

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**Sand Art**

**Egypt**

What you need:
- Coarse sandpaper squares
- Crayons

**What to do:**
Draw pyramids on the sandpaper.

*You can also use this to make a beach painting.*

You could also get different coloured craft sand and add different layers into an empty plastic bottle/jar and make Sand Bottle Art.
**Carnival Shaker**  
*Brazil*

What you need:
- Empty plastic bottle and lid
- Popcorn, seeds or pulses
- Paint
- Glitter / sequins
- Ribbon

**What to do:**
Paint the bottle in bright colours and whilst the paint is still wet stick on the glitter/sequins.
Once dry fill the empty bottle with the popcorn seeds or pulses and put the lid on. Once dry, tie the ribbons round the top of the bottle.

💡 **Try using different size bottle and pulses to make different noises.**

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**Carnival Mask**  
*Brazil*

What you need:
- White card or a white face mask (can be bought in craft stores)
- Paint (or spray paint)
- Glue
- Glitter / sequins
- Ribbon
- Craft feathers

**What to do:**
Cut out an eye mask or a face mask. Paint in bright colours.
Once dry add the sequins / glitter. Glue the feathers to the top of your mask and add the ribbon down side of your mask. Or try your own design.
Punch a hole at each side of the mask and thread ribbon through to attach to your face.
What you need:
- Paper plates
- Paint
- Paperbrush

What to do:
Paint your paper plate one colour. Once your plate is dry paint an Aztec design in the middle... common designs are the sun; geometric designs; birds and stars

What you need:
- A wooden dolly peg (craft shops)
- Pipe cleaner (optional)
- Scraps of material and wool
- Glue
- Felt tip pen

What to do:
Wind the pipe cleaner just below the neck of the peg and twist firmly at the back.
Spread the ends, this is now the arms.
Dress the body of the peg in the material.
Glue wool to the top for hair and draw a face.

What you need:
- Papier mache mix
  (Cold water, Flour (one part flour to one part water))
- Strips of newspaper
- Small balloons
- Dried pulses
- Paint
- Small wooden dowl (for the handle)
- Masking tape
- Small Funnel

What to do:
Make your papier mache mix.
Using a funnel add the pulses into the balloon and blow up (please ask an adult to do this in case beans are swallowed).
Tie knot in balloon. Cover with paper mache mixture. Once dry add the handle and tape with masking tape. Paint in bright colours.
Wooden Spoon Puppets
Cultural Unity

What you need:
- Wooden spoons
- Paint
- Wool for hair
- Scraps of felt, lace or other materials
- Small googly eyes
- Glue
- Black felt tip pen
- Lolly pop sticks (optional)

What to do:
Spoons can be left natural or painted in different skin tones. (If you want to add arms, glue a lolly stick lengthwise across the handle of the spoon)
Wrap material round the handle to make clothes.
Glue on the googly eyes and draw a face.
Glue wool on to make the hair.
Once finished your child can spend hours with imaginative play.

Try also making animal wooden spoon puppets.

Unity Handprint Wreath
Cultural Unity

What you need:
- White paper and paint or coloured paper in skin tones
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue

What to do:
Cut out a circle and paint a globe.
Place your child’s hand on the paper and draw a handprint shape.
Cut these out and paint in various skin tones.
Glue the hands, palm side to the globe.
You now have your Unity Handprint Wreath.

This booklet has been compiled by Sharon McCluskie, on behalf of Play Scotland, and she would love to hear from you, or your child, if they have more ideas for Culture Play!
email: sharonmccluskie@playscotland.org
Play Scotland works to promote the importance of play for all children and young people, and campaigns to create increased play opportunities in the community. Formed in 1998 to support the Child’s Right to Play and make children’s right to play a reality in Scotland.

The work of Play Scotland is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 31:
“State parties recognise the right of every child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activity appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”.

www.playscotland.org