

Canned Robot (GRADES 3-6)



Supplies:

A clean empty can from canned food. Label removed and sharp ridges smoothed down with pliers (this part can be done by kids if they are supervised).

Scissors

Glue (you can use Elmer's glue or a glue gun-- at my school we use glue guns with kids grades 1 and up)

And ANY of the following:

Bits and pieces/broken plastic toys/nuts and bolts

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Pom Poms, Washi tape, chenille sticks, Googly eyes, paper, other scraps and bits of yarn

Paint (doesn't have to be painted)

I have also included pictures of robots made with other clean empty containers like fruit cups or yogurt. If you are worried about metal and cans, then younger kids can totally work with the other supplies. Please see photos for inspiration.

Directions:

Depending on the age of your students, they will need an empty can. Canned veggies or soup cans work the best. Older kids took pliers and flattened the sharp edges (where the lid was) around the entire can.

Again, depending on age of student, they can "drill" a hole for arms in the side of the can. We did this with a nail and a hammer in class with 6th graders and it was fine.

Chenille sticks can be stuck in the can and twisted around a pencil for arms. The possibilities are limitless!

This is a quick easy, sustainable art activity to help kids think about items around their houses in a new way. If they don't have googly eyes at home, then they can make some with paper. We did this at a STEAM festival and talked about recycling and "trash art." There are several artists you can refer to them that make trash art:

<https://interestingengineering.com/15-incredible-artworks-made-from-trash>

Good luck!

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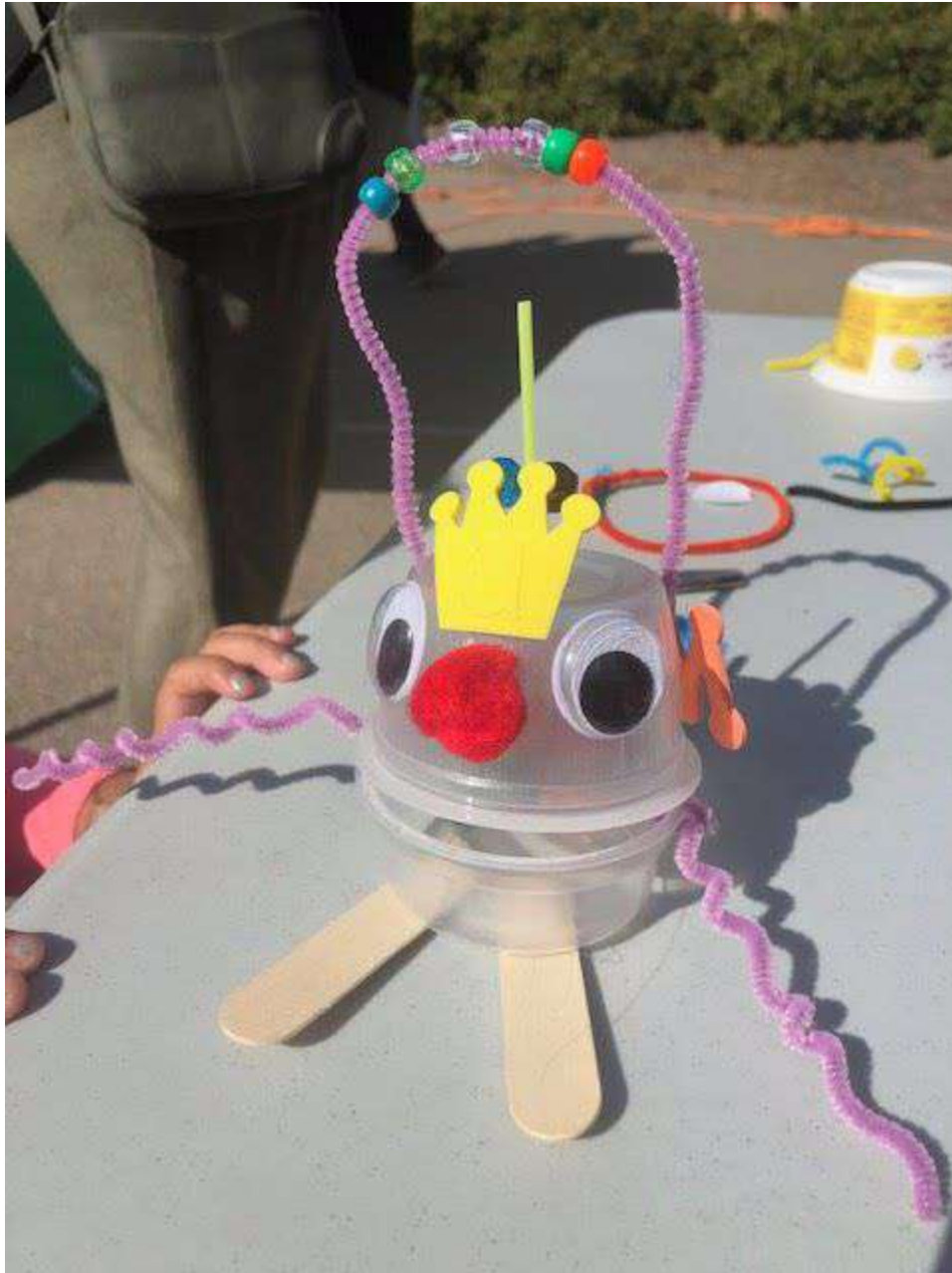
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