Cardboard Chris

Wanted: one costume designer to make an outfit for Chris.

Can you create a full set of clothes for Chris from a selection of everyday items?

Equipment

1. Some stiff card for the body. You can use any size of card, but a sheet about 30cm by 20 cm is a good size.

2. A selection of sheets of paper of different colours, textures and patterns. You could buy a good range of types of paper from a stationary shop, but it's better to find some at home. What about using spare pieces of wallpaper, wrapping paper or even pages from glossy magazines?

3. Some short lengths of wool.

4. A pair of scissors and some paper glue.

5. Some thin, coloured felt tip pens and some coloured pencils.

Safety Stuff

Working with items such as scissors can be dangerous, so be very careful when you use them. Make sure that you never leave them where smaller children can reach them.

Before starting, cover the work surface with newspaper or an old cloth and make sure that you're wearing an apron or some old clothes. Gather together all the items you'll need and plan your designs carefully before you begin. Draw your designs on paper to experiment, and try out any complicated ideas on some scrap cloth. That way you won't waste any clothes or good material you may need later!

A lot of the things you'll need can be found simply by hunting around at home, but check with an adult before you take anything. Using somebody's best suit to make a pirate costume isn't going to make you very popular! And don't forget to tidy up afterwards!

Steps

Step One

First, draw a basic person shape onto a piece of card and then cut it out. This can be quite simple because it's just a frame to hold the clothes.

This is Cardboard Chris. Decide whether your character will be a man or a woman.

Draw the eyes, nose and mouth onto the face, and glue on some pieces of wool to give Chris some hair. If Chris is a man, he might have a moustache or beard, as well.
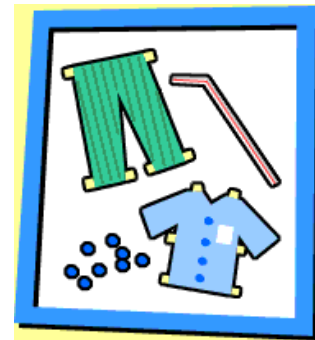
Step Two

Now it's time to make Chris some clothes. Choose a 'look' (such as sporty, or a clown, or pop star) and design a selection of garments.

If you include some little tabs at the top and sides of each piece of clothing, you can simply fold these over to hook them onto Chris.

There are some suggestions for possible outfits. You will also need to design your own, as Chris wants a whole wardrobe of new clothes, including party clothes and clothes for working in the garden.

Step Three

Choose from these materials, or find others.

- Corrugated card or patterned paper, for corduroy trousers
- White tissue paper or kitchen roll, for a shirt
- A coloured drinking straw, for a tie
- Discs from a paper hole-punch, for buttons
- Coloured tissues, for handkerchiefs or a scarf
- Patterned wrapping paper, for trousers
- Paper doilies, for lace collars and cuffs
- Folded paper for a pleated skirt.