girl scouts of southeastern michigan

Ways to Reuse Your Cardboard Box

MAKE A PAINT PALETTE



Supplies:

- Cardboard
- Milk lids
- Paint
- Paint brush
- Hot glue gun

1. Draw a simple paint palette on my scrap cardboard (if you're having a hard time sketching it, try outlining a lowercase letter e—it looks very similar!).
2. Next, cut out the palette and hot glue milk lids onto it. Done!

MAKE A COLLAGE TREASURE BOX



Supplies:

- Your GO! Box!
- Construction paper, wrapping paper, scrapbooking paper, magazines, photos
- Water
- Glitter gel paint or glitter glue
- Assorted decorative items: faux gems, stickers, sequins, charms
- Scissors
- Craft glue
- Pie tin
- Paintbrush

1. Cut and tear all sorts of paper into pieces of varying sizes and shapes. Cut pictures and words from magazines, and collect favorite photos and die-cut shapes.
2. Pour glue into a pie tin, and add enough water to make it the consistency of heavy cream.
3. Using a paintbrush, brush this mixture over a small section of the box. One by one, place the paper scraps onto the glue and use your fingers to gently smooth out wrinkles and air bubbles.
   Overlap the different colors and sizes, covering the entire box. (Paint more glue on the surface as needed.)
4. When the surface is completely covered, brush another layer of glue mixture over the whole thing; let it dry 30-40 minutes.
5. Paint designs with glitter paint or glitter glue and glue gems, stickers, sequins, and charms onto the box. Let dry.

girl scouts of southeastern michigan

MAKE A SHADOW BOX FOR YOUR GO! AT HOME MEMORIES



Supplies:

- Your GO! Box!
- Pencil
- X-Acto blade
- Cork tile—or recycle a piece of Styrofoam!
- Scissors
- Double-sided tape
- Fabric

1. Draw a decorative border onto the top of your box and carefully cut out with your X-Acto blade.
2. Trace the bottom of the box onto a cork tile and cut out with scissors.
3. Cover the cork or Styrofoam piece with a scrap of fabric, securing on the back with double-sided tape.
4. If your box is deep, you may also wish to line the inside with fabric, which you can also secure with double-sided tape.
5. Puncture a small hole in the back of the box with your X-Acto blade.
6. Insert fabric-covered cork piece into box bottom and assemble box.
7. Fill with goodies and hang on a small nail through the hole in back!

MAKE A NATURE DIORAMA







Supplies:

- Your GO! Box!
- Construction paper, wrapping paper, scrapbooking paper, magazines, photos, foil
- Craft glue
- Assorted decorative items: branches, leaves, toy animals, or clay (for making your own)
- Scissors

1. Cover the outside and inside of box with colored paper or paint. Choose a color that matches your ecosystem—like green for a forest, blue for the ocean, or brown for the desert.
2. Cut and paste plant life from magazines, draw your own figures on plain paper, model with clay, use branches or the material of your choice.
3. Select animals that you want to display in the model and that are native to the ecosystem. Cut out pictures from magazines or use small figures of plastic animals.
4. Suspend animals that fly or swim with a piece of thread or fishing line.
5. Add texture to the model with three-dimensional objects such as shells, leaves, or stones.

girl scouts of southeastern michigan

MAKE A SOLAR OVEN!

A solar oven is a box that traps some of the sun's energy to make the air inside the box hotter than the air outside the box. In other words, the solar oven is like a super greenhouse.

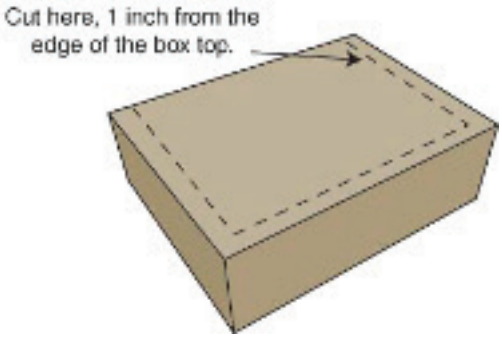


Supplies:

- Cardboard box with attached lid. Lid should have flaps so that the box can be closed tightly. Box should be at least 3 inches deep and big enough to set a pie tin inside.
- Aluminum foil
- Clear plastic wrap
- Glue stick
- Tape (transparent, duct, masking, or whatever you have)
- Stick (about 1 foot long) to prop open reflector flap. (Use a skewer, knitting needle, ruler, or whatever you have)
- Ruler or straight edge
- Box cutter or X-Acto knife (with adult help, please!)

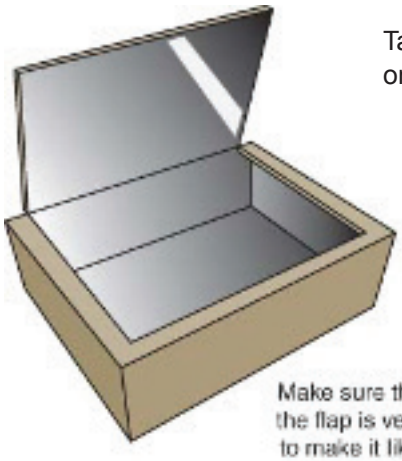
How to make a solar oven:

CAUTION:
Have an adult cut the box with the box cutter or blade.

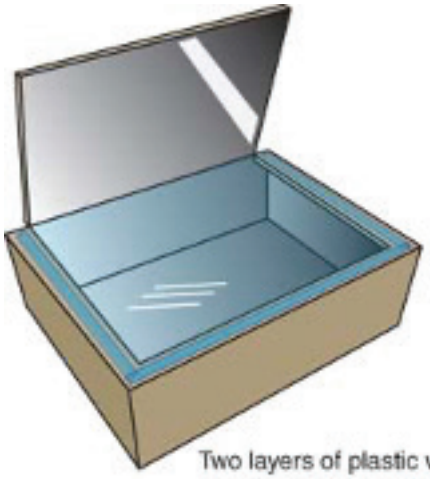


Using the straight edge as a guide, cut a three-sided flap out of the top of the box, leaving at least a 1-inch border around the three sides.

Cover the bottom (inside) of the flap with aluminum foil, spreading a coat of glue from the glue stick onto the cardboard first and making the foil as smooth as possible. Line the inside of the box with aluminum foil, again gluing it down and making it as smooth as possible.



Tape two layers of plastic wrap across the opening you cut in the lid—one layer on the top and one layer on the bottom side of the lid.



Two layers of plastic wrap over the opening will help keep heat in, while still letting all the light shine through.

Test the stick you'll use to prop the lid up. You may have to use tape or figure another way to make the stick stay put.

Put the oven to work

Set the oven in the direct sun, with the flap propped to reflect the light into the box. You'll probably have to tape the prop in place. Preheat the oven for at least 30 minutes.

To make s'mores, you'll need:

- Graham crackers
- Large marshmallows
- Plain chocolate bars (thin)
- Aluminum pie pan
- Napkins!

Break graham crackers in half to make squares. Place four squares in the pie pan. Place a marshmallow on each.

IMPORTANT!
Note that unlike most recipes, our s'mores have the marshmallow UNDER the chocolate. That's because, in the solar oven, it takes the marshmallow longer to melt than the chocolate.

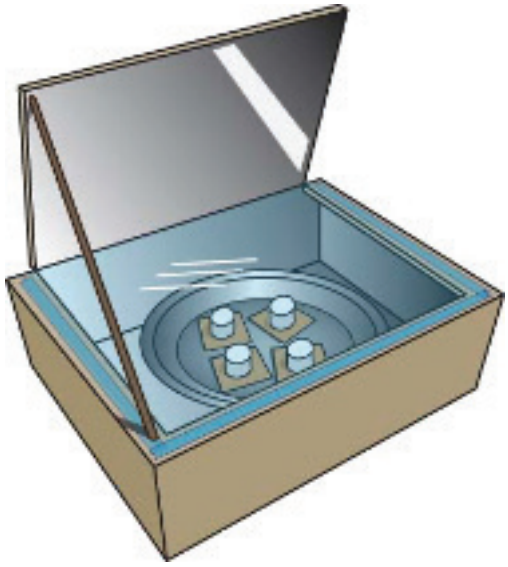
Place the pan in the preheated solar oven.

Close the oven lid (the part with the plastic wrap on it) tightly, and prop up the flap to reflect the sunlight into the box.

Depending on how hot the day is—and how directly the sunlight shines on the oven—the marshmallows will take 30 to 60 minutes to get squishy when you poke them.

Then, open the oven lid and place a piece of chocolate (about half the size of the graham cracker square) on top of each marshmallow. Place another graham cracker square on top of the chocolate and press down gently to squash the marshmallow.

Close the lid of the solar oven and let the sun heat it up for a few minutes more, just to melt the chocolate a bit.



Enjoy!

For a video tutorial, check this out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl7BqRhLpWE