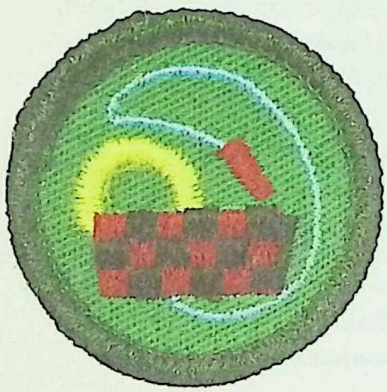
Toymaker



TOYS! You have them. You use them. You share them and you trade them. Now you can do more than just play with toys. You can make them.



1. It's Your Design
Create a toy of your own design in one of the following categories: rolling toy, spinning toy, balancing toy, stuffed toy, mechanical toy, musical toy.

2. Toys Around the World
Find out about toys in other countries or in several cultures in the United States. Check out library books and Internet sites for information. Create a simple toy that you discovered.

3. Toys Through History
Investigate the history of toys. What were some of the earliest kinds of toys? What kinds of toys did your grandparents and great grandparents play with? If possible, visit a museum or historical society to see a collection of toys. What kinds of materials were they made from? Learn how to make one of these toys and make it.

4. Make a Doll House
Make a doll house for yourself or a younger child. Use wood, foam board, or heavy cardboard. You can make furniture from wood, clay, cardboard, plastic, or papier-mâché. Decorate the walls and floor of your house with wallpaper, paint, or other materials.

5. Make a Board Game
Find out what makes a good board game by playing several different kinds. Then decide upon a theme for a game of your own. Decide how players will move, make up rules, and create the board. Try your game out with friends and family.

6. Challenge the Imagination
Create a brainteaser game, toy, or puzzle. It could be a mechanical puzzle, a mathematical game, a string game, a computer-created puzzle, or a trivia game. Play it with family or friends.

7. Design an Educational Game
Many games help you learn while you are having fun. Create a game that helps someone learn something new.

8. Toy Safety
Talk to an adult about toy hazards. Do a toy hazard check at home, at a nursery school, or at a day care center. Share your findings with adults and children and help develop a plan to eliminate toy hazards.

9. Toy Recycling
Help collect toys and fix them up for kids who would benefit from them. You could help out with an existing toy drive in your community or start one in a group.

10. Trash It!
A "trash toy" is made from anything that might be thrown away. Ask your family to save some things they would usually toss out. Boxes, milk cartons, cans, egg trays, string, buttons, shells, and newspapers are just a few of the things you might use. Let your imagination run wild and see what kind of trash toy you can create. Will it be a set of musical instruments? A wheeled toy? Stilts? Share your toy with your troop, group, or others.

10 Toy Hazards to Avoid

1. Toys left on stairs.
2. Toys with small parts for children under three.
3. Toys for an older child in the hands of a younger child.
4. Toys with sharp points or rough edges.
5. Uninflated or broken balloons for children under eight.
6. Toys with heating elements for children under eight.
7. Sports equipment without protective gear.
8. Broken toys.
9. Toys not played with properly (hitting, throwing, etc.).
10. Any toy used without sensible supervision.

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