

Make a Magic Wand

Use treasures you find on an autumn walk to make a mystical magic wand.

You will need:

- An unusual stick found on a woodland walk
- Leaves, feathers, seeds and other woodland treasures
- Potato peeler
- Colourful wool or thread
- Glitter and sequins
- Glue
- Felt tips or paint



Instructions

1. Put one end of the stick into the ground and hold the other end between your knees. Use the potato peeler to peel the bark off the stick, by moving the peeler away from yourself and towards the ground. You can peel off all the bark, or just some of it to create a two-tone effect.
2. Decorate your stick by winding coloured wool or thread around it to create different sections. You can add leaves or feathers, attaching them using the wound wool or thread.
3. Add more decoration using seeds, glitter or sequins, or colour in sections using felt tips or paint.
4. When your wand is complete, hold it tight in your hands and whisper a secret spell to create the magic.

Hints and Tips

- Ask a grown up for help with peeling the bark from the stick.
- Never pull sticks or branches off trees or bushes - only use sticks you find on the ground.



Magic Woodland Spell



Use some treasures from an autumn woodland walk to create a magic spell.

You will need

A bowl or beaker

A stick or 'magic wand'

Treasures from a woodland walk

Hints and Tips

- Never pick flowers, petals or leaves from living plants.
- Never pick berries unless an adult has given you permission.
- Always wash your hands after handling things you have found in the woods.
- Try making a recipe book with all your different spells in it. Don't forget to say what the ingredients are, how to mix them and what magic the spell will do! Draw some pictures of your ingredients too.

The Activity

1. Take a beaker or bowl and a 'magic wand' with you when you go for a woodland walk. If you don't have a magic wand, a stick will do.
2. Collect some woodland treasures. Ideas include:
 - brightly coloured leaves
 - nuts and seeds
 - interesting feathers
 - scented pine needles
 - pine cones
3. Mix your treasures together in your bowl or beaker with your stick or wand. Say a magic spell.
4. Pour out your spell and see if it works!
5. Try using different ingredients for different spells.

Halloween Activities for Fearful Family Fun!



Lurking Local Activities

- Take a ghost walk. There are organised walks in many towns and cities such as York, Chester and Oxford.
- Investigate your local museum - many hold spooky half-term activities for families.
- The National Trust has property all over the country and often runs Halloween activities in its parks, houses and castles.
- If you live near the sea, a lake or a river, investigate whether there are any ghostly boat trips planned.
- Your local zoo or theme park may also have spooky events arranged.

Frightful Fun and Ghastly Games Outside

- Play Werewolf Tag! Choose a werewolf to be the seeker and ask everyone to hide. Once you are found - run! If the werewolf tags you, then you become a werewolf too and start to help with the hunt. By the end, there will be a whole pack of werewolves!
- Go for a night walk. Equip everyone with torches (head torches are great for this) and go for a spooky night time walk. Make sure it's a familiar route!
- Hold a scary scavenger hunt. Try the [Spooky Scavenger Hunt](#) for some ideas.
- Build a campfire and toast marshmallows. Tell spooky stories round the fire then sing songs to cheer yourselves up!
- Create a Halloween-themed treasure hunt in your garden, local woodland or park. Hide small, cheap spooky toys around and create scary clues to help find them.
- 'Bob' for apples on the washing line. Make a hole through the centre of some apples with a skewer and thread a piece of string through, knotting it securely at the bottom. Hang the apples from the washing line.

The challenge is to put your hands behind your back and take a bite from an apple without touching it.

Eerie Indoor Ideas

- Make paper lanterns and light them up with battery-operated tea lights. You can find a template here: [Chinese Lantern Template](#).
- Instead of carving a pumpkin, try decorating it. Use craft materials or materials found in nature such as leaves, twigs, berries and moss to make scary pumpkin faces.
- Decorate the house for Halloween. Buy cheap decorations from your local supermarket or cut out spooky bats and skeletons from craft paper.
- Do some Halloween baking. Find spooky shaped cookie cutters, or use gingerbread man cutters and then decorate your gingerbread men as ghosts, vampires or zombies!



When you're doing Halloween activities, always be mindful of how comfortable your children feel and stop if they are genuinely scared. Set boundaries before you start and always make sure an adult is supervising.

Pumpkin Fairy House



Instead of carving pumpkins into scary faces this Halloween, why not try making a fairy house? No carving needed!

You will need:

A small to medium-sized pumpkin or squash

A tray or flat plate large enough to sit the pumpkin on

Moss (available from garden centres)

Cotton wool

Craft paper – any colour

Thin twigs

Beads or buttons

Pebbles

Pine cones

Small flowers – real or artificial

Craft glue or a glue gun

Sharp scissors or secateurs



Instructions

1. Sit the pumpkin on the tray or plate, slightly to one side.
2. Arrange moss on top of the pumpkin and hanging down the sides to make a roof. The pumpkin stalk should stick out of the moss to make a chimney, and you can add 'smoke' using cotton wool. You can use some small flowers pushed into the moss to decorate your roof.
3. Cut several twigs to the same length and glue them together to make a door. Add a door knob or knocker using a bead or button, and attach the

door to the front of the house.

4. Cut out two four-sided shapes from craft paper to make the windows – they don't have to be squares, more 'quirky' shapes will look better. Glue four twigs around the sides to make a frame and two more in a cross to make panes, then attach the windows to the front of the house.
5. Make a 'fairy garden' around your house using pebbles, pine cones, twigs and flowers.
6. If you have any 'fairy' dolls or toys, add them to your fairy house and garden!

Hints and Tips

- Make sure the pumpkin sits flat on your plate or tray. If it doesn't, you can either cut a slice off the bottom or use playdough or modelling clay to support it.
- Cutting with sharp scissors or secateurs should be done with the help of a grown-up.
- You can change your fairy house according to the seasons – try a Christmas one with glittery cotton wool on the roof and bare trees, or a spring one with a branch of blossom in the garden for a tree.
- The pumpkin should last a long time as it has not been cut, but keep an eye out for signs that it needs throwing away!
- If you enjoyed this activity, try growing your own pumpkins next year. They are really easy to grow and you can find the seeds in many garden centres.

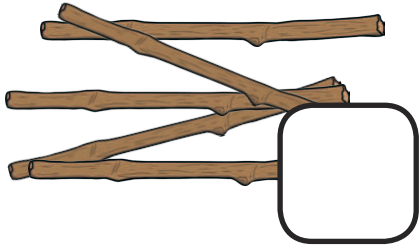


Spooky Scavenger Hunt

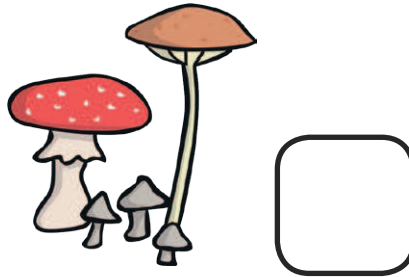


On an autumn walk, see how many of these frightful finds you can spot!

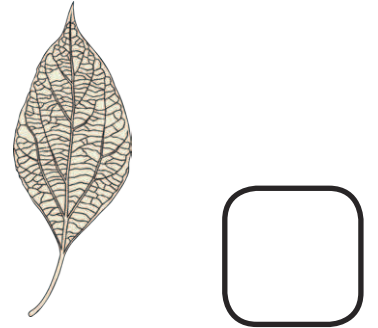
twigs from a witch's broomstick



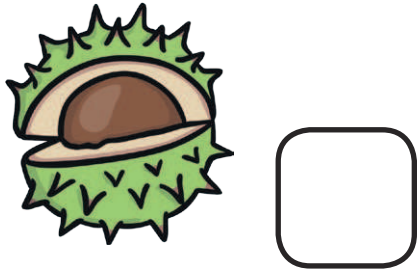
toadstools for a scary spell



the skeleton of a leaf



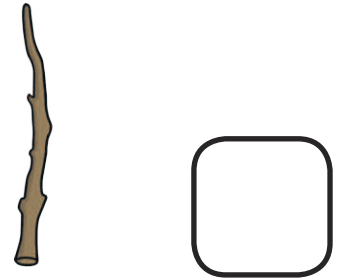
a zombie's eyeball (conker)



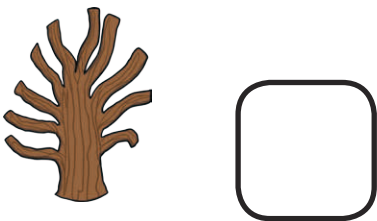
witch's hair (spiders' webs)



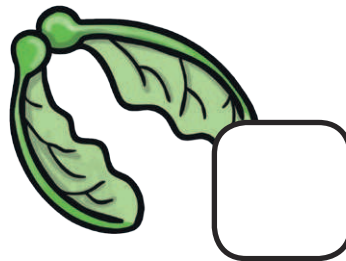
a magic wand (unusual stick or twig)



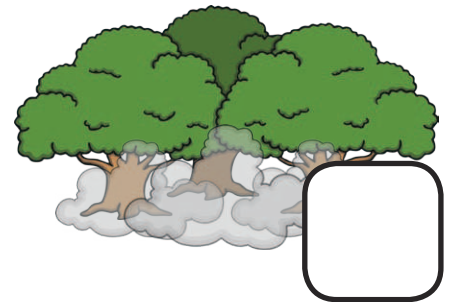
a witch's hand (branch or twig shaped like a spooky hand)



fairy wings (sycamore seeds)



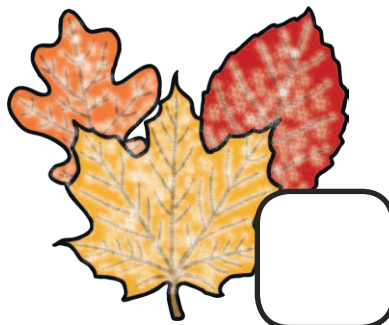
ghostly mist



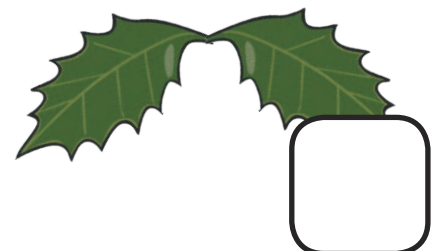
wizard's lair (tangled thorns and brambles)



frosty leaves



a leaf shaped like a bat



Craft Instructions

Paper Plate Spider Web

Supplies

- Wool or string
- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Paint
- Googly eyes
- PVA glue



1

Paint the paper plate in your chosen colour, then leave to dry.



2

Paint your palm and four fingers black, then print onto the middle of the plate. This should make half of the spider's body, along with four legs.



3

Now print the other four legs of the spider. To do this paint the palm and four fingers of your opposite hand, then place the hand, with the palm overlapping the previous handprint.



4

Use a hole-punch to make holes at equal distances around the edge of the paper plate.



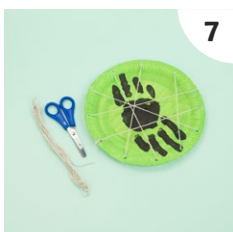
5

Cut a long length of string or wool, then tie it in a knot around one of the holes.



6

Thread the wool or string in a criss-cross pattern to create a web in the middle of the plate.



7

Once a web has been created on the plate, tie the wool or string off around one of the holes.



8

Finally, stick some googly eyes onto the spider.

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Step 5. Cut a long length of string or wool, then tie it in a knot around one of the holes.



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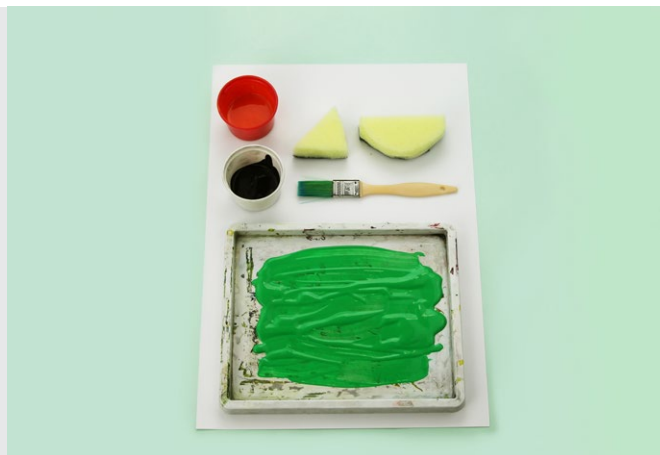
Step 8. Finally, stick some googly eyes onto the spider.

Craft Instructions

Painted Pumpkin

Supplies

- Orange, green and black paint
- Paintbrushes
- Paper
- A shallow tray
- Wood blocks or shaped sponges for printing



1

First, paint a large orange circle shape onto your paper and then leave to dry.



2

Spread a little green paint into the shallow tray and carefully press your hand into the paint.



3

Take your paint covered hand and press it firmly onto the top of the circle shape.



4

Print another handprint on the top of the pumpkin, with the fingers going in the opposite direction – turning the paper around may help!



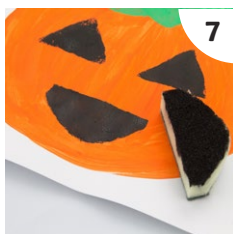
5

Use a small brush or a finger dipped into green paint to draw a stem coming out of the top of the pumpkin, between the handprint leaves.



6

Now choose a shape for the eyes of your pumpkin. Dip the shape into black paint and press onto your pumpkin picture to create two eye shapes.



7

After that, choose a shape for the mouth of the pumpkin. Dip it into the black paint and print it onto the bottom part of the pumpkin.



8

Finally, choose a shape for your pumpkin's nose and print onto your picture.

Craft Instructions

Painted Pumpkin



Supplies

- Orange, green and black paint
- Paintbrushes
- Paper
- A shallow tray
- Wood blocks or shaped sponges for printing





Step 1. First, paint a large orange circle shape onto your paper and then leave to dry.



Step 2. Spread a little green paint into the shallow tray and carefully press your hand into the paint.



Step 3. Take your paint covered hand and press it firmly onto the top of the circle shape.



Step 4. Print another handprint on the top of the pumpkin, with the fingers going in the opposite direction – turning the paper around may help!



Step 5. Use a small brush or a finger dipped into green paint to draw a stem coming out of the top of the pumpkin, between the handprint leaves.



Step 6. Now choose a shape for the eyes of your pumpkin. Dip the shape into black paint and press onto your pumpkin picture to create two eye shapes.



Step 7. After that, choose a shape for the mouth of the pumpkin. Dip it into the black paint and print it onto the bottom part of the pumpkin.



Step 8. Finally, choose a shape for your pumpkin's nose and print onto your picture.

Halloween

Monster Face Biscuits



Ingredients

Round biscuits (buy some or make your own)

450g icing sugar

4-6 tbsp. boiling water

Green food colouring

A selection of colourful sweets: lips and teeth, chocolate beans, strawberry laces, dolly mixtures etc.



Method

1. Make the icing by gradually mixing the boiling water with the icing sugar until it forms a paste. Add several drops of green food colouring and mix in.
2. Spread each round biscuit with the green icing.
3. Use the sweets to decorate the biscuits with monster faces.
4. Store in a cool place until set.



Dangly Bottle Top Spider

You will need:

Plastic bottle lid

Black acrylic paint

String (optional)

Glue or double sided tape

Googly eyes

2 black pipe cleaners

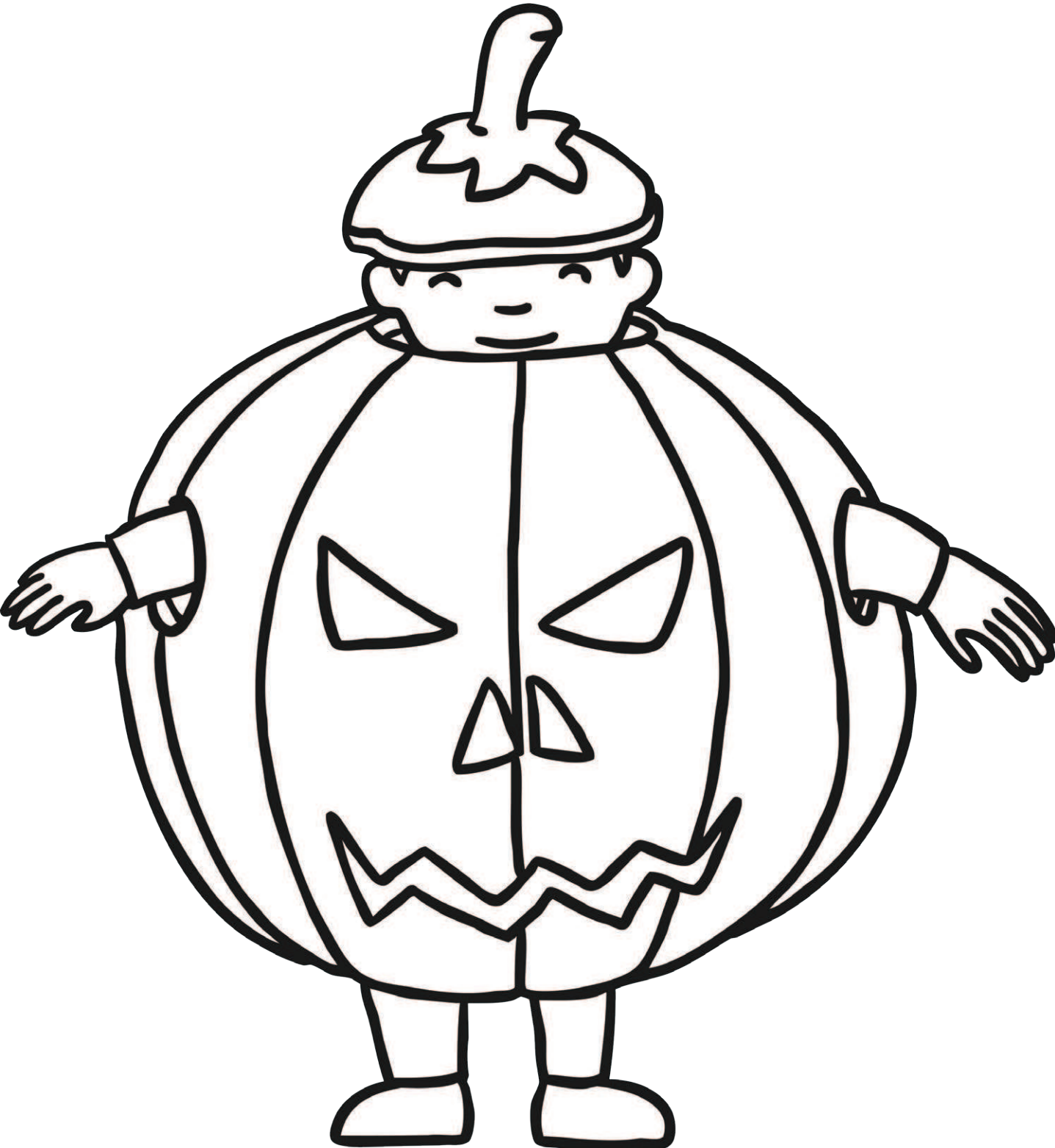


Instructions

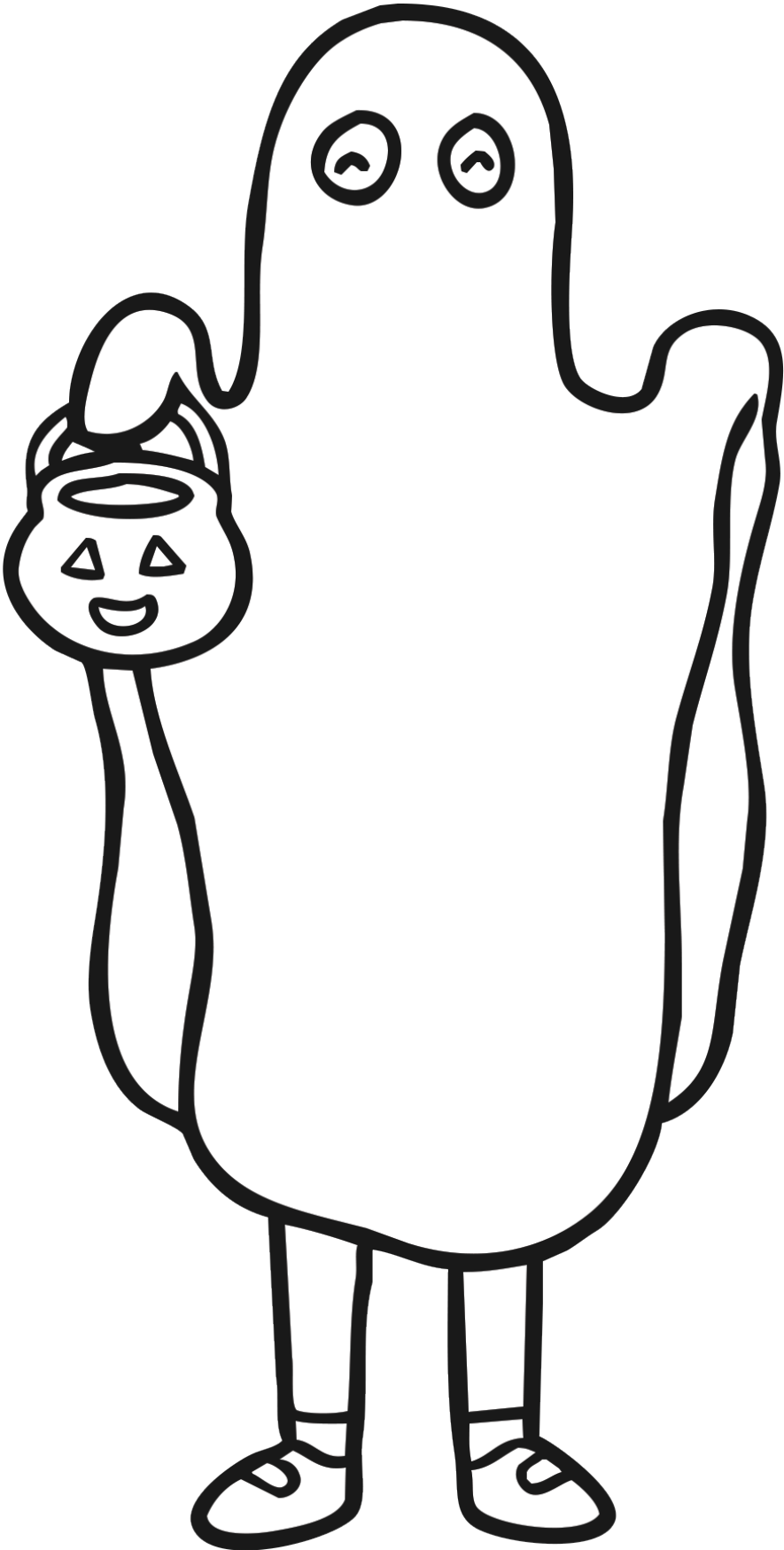
1. Ask an adult to make a hole in the rim of the lid if you would like to hang the spider. They could use a metal kebab skewer.
2. Next, paint the lid black and leave it to dry.
3. Cut the pipe cleaners in half to make four pieces.
4. To make the legs, use glue or double sided tape to attach the middle of the cut pipe cleaners to the back of the lid. It should now look a bit like a spider.
5. Stick the eyes on.
6. To make your spider dangle, thread the string through the hole and tie a knot in it.



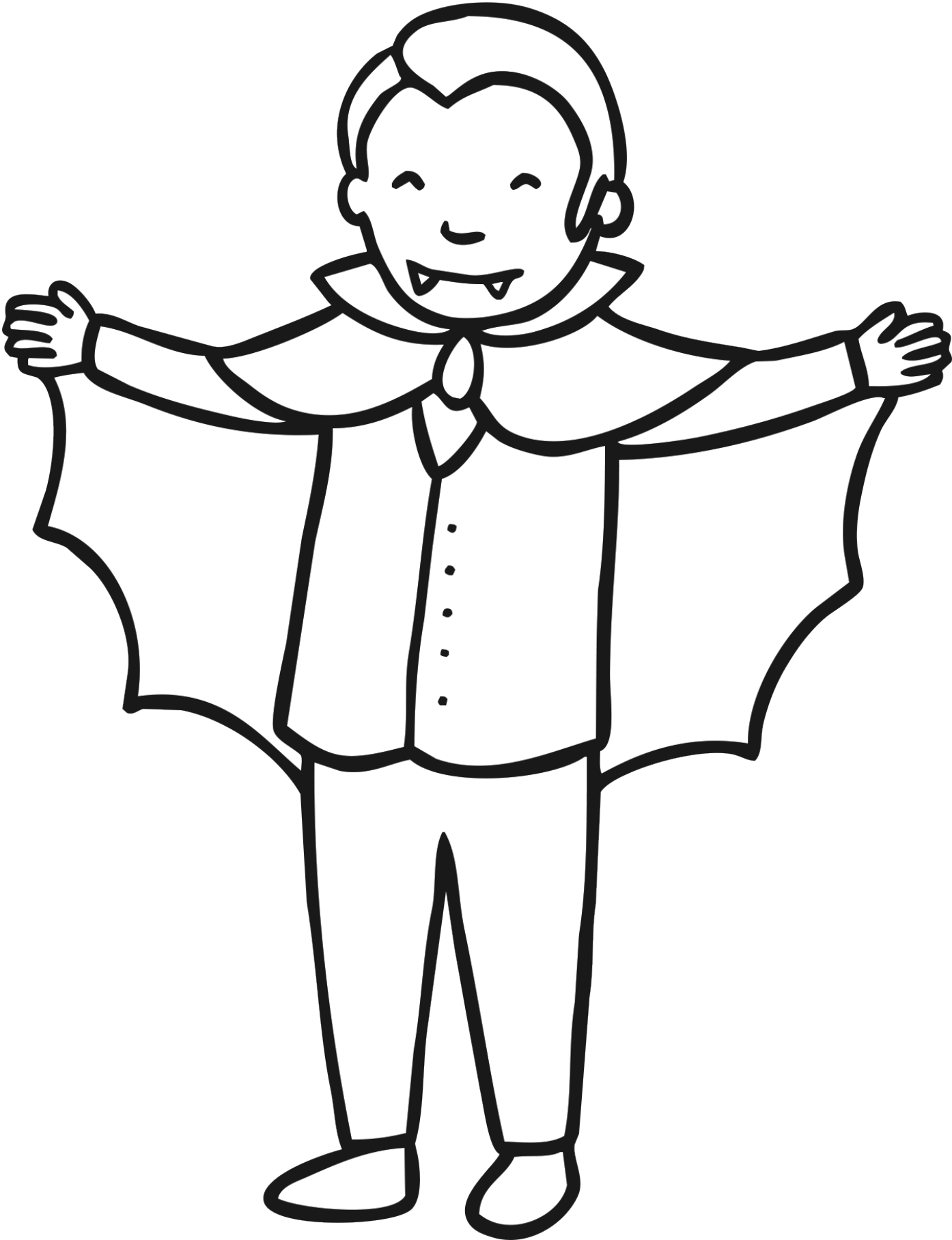
Halloween



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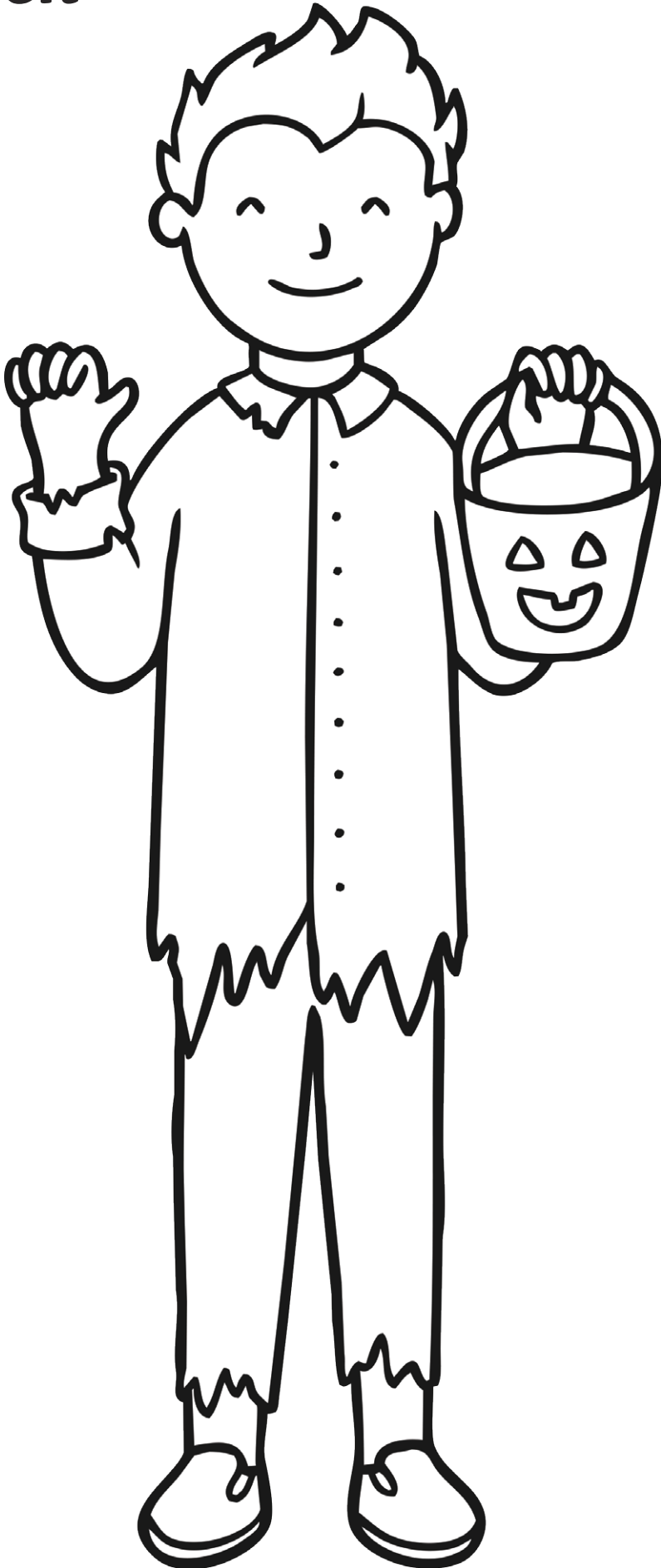
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Edible Broomsticks



Ingredients

(Serves 2 people)

Thin breadsticks (grissini torinesi)

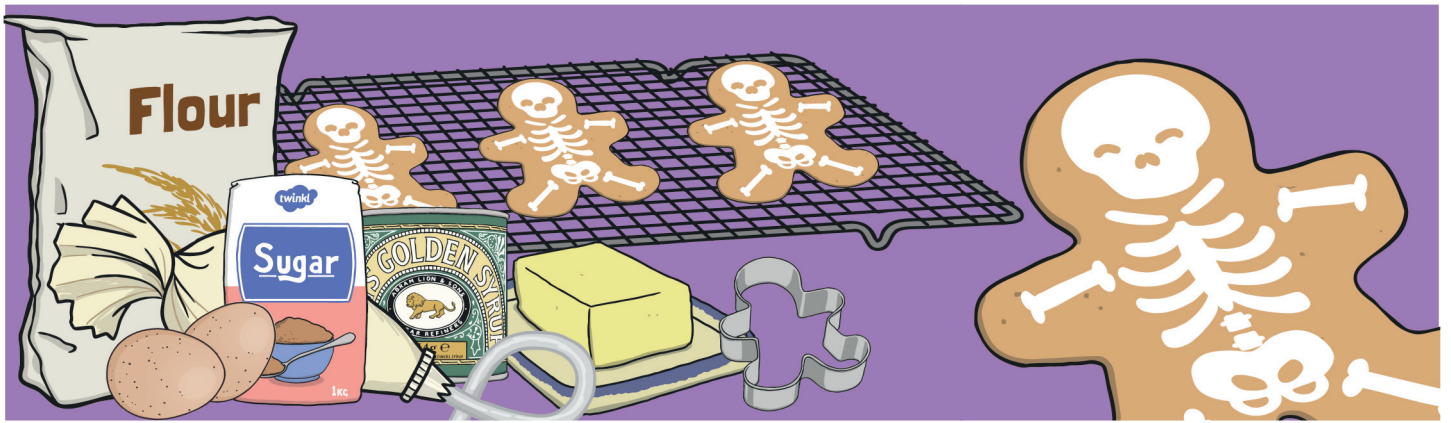
String cheese

Hummus

Method

1. Cut the string cheese in half.
2. Peel the cheese into lots of thin fibres.
3. Snap the breadstick in half.
4. Dip one end of the breadstick into the hummus.
5. To make a broom, arrange the cheese fibres at the hummus end of the breadstick. The hummus will help secure the cheese to the breadstick. Once complete, secure in place by tying one of the cheese fibres around rest of the cheese and breadstick.





Gingerbread Skeletons



Ingredients

350g plain flour
175g light soft brown sugar
125g butter
1 medium egg
4 tbsp golden syrup
1 tsp bicarbonate soda
2 tsp ground ginger
White icing and chocolate chips to decorate

Equipment

Oven (set to 180°C/gas mark 5)
Mixing bowl
Sieve
Wooden spoon
Blunt knife
Rolling pin
Large gingerbread man-shaped cutter
Baking trays
Baking paper
Tablespoon
Teaspoon
Cooling racks
Small piping bags

Method

1. Pre-heat the oven and line the baking trays with baking paper.
2. Wash your hands and put on an apron.
3. Sieve the flour into the mixing bowl.
4. Mix in the bicarbonate of soda and the ground ginger.
5. Cut the butter into small pieces and use your fingers to rub it into the flour mixture, until it looks like breadcrumbs.
6. Then stir in the sugar.
7. Next, mix in the golden syrup and the egg to make a stiff dough.
8. Roll out the dough using the rolling pin and a little extra flour. It should be about 5mm thick.
9. Use the cutter to cut out 12 gingerbread man shapes and place them on the lined baking trays.
10. Bake in the oven for 12-15 minutes.
11. Allow the biscuits to cool before decorating.
12. Use the white icing to decorate, making faces and bones. Chocolate chips could be added for eyes. White icing can be made using icing sugar and water, or bought ready-made in small tubes.