



## Independence Day – July 4, 2009

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### Fun Facts

- The Liberty Bell was rung when the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. It was rung again on each Fourth of July until 1846, when a small crack had grown to the point that the bell could no longer be used. Other bells are still rung at Independence Day celebrations.
- Fireworks were used to celebrate the first Independence day in 1777.
- Paper forms the outside casing of most fireworks. The shape of the case, either cylindrical or spherical, determines the type of visual effects created.
- Firework displays may include the following types of fireworks.
  - Willow – Like a weeping willow tree, long trails of color slowly fall to the ground with this firework.
  - Palm Tree – As this firework rises in the sky, a trail can be seen, forming the tree trunk. When it explodes, it reveals the leaves of the palm.
  - Chrysanthemum – Perfect, symmetrically-round breaks, forming the shape of a flower.
  - Salute – This firework flashes a bright light and creates a loud BOOM.

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## Sparkling Fireworks Pictures

### Sparkling Fireworks Pictures

#### Materials and Preparations:

- Glitter glue (If you do not have glitter glue, mix food coloring and nonmetallic glitter into school glue and return the mixture to squeeze bottles)
- Black construction paper

#### Learning Experiences:

- Invite children to squeeze one or more colors of glitter glue onto black construction paper.
- Encourage children to describe the fireworks they created.



## Ocean Mural

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### Materials and Preparations

- Crayons/markers
- Paint and paintbrushes
- Stamps and stickers of various aquatic animals and plants
- Tissue paper
- Butcher paper
- Transparent blue cellophane

### Learning Experiences:

- Tape the butcher paper to the wall or the floor.
- Encourage children to create a mural with the materials provided.
- When the mural is finished, help children place the cellophane over the top to create the illusion of water.

**Home Extension:** Ask families to stop at a pet store with their children in order to observe an aquatic creature and learn about the habitat it needs to live.

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## Hermit Crab

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### Materials and Preparations

- *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle
- Pictures of turtles, tortoises, lobsters, and snails
- Hermit crab shell and seashells of various sizes, colors, and shapes
- Nonfiction books on animals with shells

### Learning Experiences:

- Read the book *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle.
- Bring in a hermit crab or different shell for children to observe.
- Encourage children to discuss any animals they know that have shells. Offer pictures of turtles and tortoises to show.
- Help children explore nonfiction books to find other animals that live in shells.
- Invite children to investigate the seashell collection and try to guess what type of animal may have lived in each shell and how big the animal may have been.

**Home Extension:** Ask families if they ever eat fish or shellfish. Create a list of aquatic creatures the family has eaten.

