

How to make... a magic wand

Suitable for ages 3 - 6

You will need:

- A stick (suggestions below)
- Cardboard
- Decorations (suggestions below)
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Stapler
- Glue (PVA, Copydex or similar)



If you enjoyed Cass Newby's reading of *Cinderella*, why not try making your own magic wand? There are lots of ways you can make a wand depending on what you have available and what style of wand you want to make. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Instructions

The Wand

If you have a garden, park or woods nearby you can go on a wand hunt! Look for fallen or broken twigs that would make a good wand. Natural wands are lovely because they have their own personality with natural bends, nobbles and textures. Maybe you can find a few and each has a different magical purpose?



There are probably things you have around the house that would make a great wand. Barbecue skewers or chopsticks, drinking straws, pencils or knitting needles, for example. If you are going to decorate your wand and use glue, make sure you only use things that people don't need anymore!



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If what you are using to make your wand is quite thin and will bend and break easily (drinking straws or skewers for example), then try taping a few of them together to make a stronger, thicker wand. If you have masking tape instead of sticky tape this works better, as you can glue on top of masking tape, giving you more decorating options!



The Star

You don't have to have a star at the top of your wand, but if you do want one you can use one of our templates (from the last page of this activity guide), or draw your own. Use thin card and draw two stars the same size/shape so you can stick them together for extra strength and so that both sides of your wand look great (more tips on attaching stars below).



Decorate your stars however you want, and with whatever you have at home! Colour with pens, and stick things on. If you have crafting materials like sequins, tissue or shiny paper you could use those, but if not then tin foil from the kitchen, sweet or chocolate wrappers, wrapping paper offcuts or coloured paper torn from magazine pages work just as well.



Decorating your wand

You can keep your wand stick plain, or you can decorate it. You can use wool, string and ribbon (including present wrapping ribbon) that you might have around the home to wrap around your wand. If you have PVA or copydex glue these work best, but lots of good quality pritt stick should work too.



If you have pipe cleaners you can also wrap these around the wand and they shouldn't need glue to hold them on if you wrap them tightly.

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Top tips for decorating

- Tie string, wool or ribbon to one end before you start winding
- Hold the stick in one hand and gradually wind the string, wool or ribbon around with the other hand.
- Add glue a little bit at a time or it might dry out.
- At the bottom of the stick do a few extra winds with your wool, string or ribbon, over what's already there, and add some extra glue to secure it in place.
- If you are using pipe cleaners attach the next one to the one you are already using by twisting them together before you continue winding.



Attaching the star

There are two ways to do this.

You could insert the stick in to the stars after you have already decorated them and stuck them together. Just make sure you leave a non-glued gap in between the two stars where you want the stick to go. Then put strong glue on the end of the stick, insert it into the star and press down firmly to close it.

You could also use a stapler to secure the two halves of the star around the stick. You might want to do this before decorating your star so your can cover up the staples with your decoration.



Finishing touches

Tie ribbon or wool around your wand for an extra magical effect. Then let the magic begin!



What next?

Magic words:

Make up some magic words you can say when you swish your wand. What does each magic word do when you use it? Write them down.

Swish:

Think of different ways you can swish your wand to make a spell. Maybe each magic word has a special magic action?

Draw or write about it:

Cinderella's Fairy Godmother uses her magic to help Cinderella go to the ball. Who would you help with your magic? What would you do to help them and make them happy? Write about it or draw a picture showing what happens.

Star templates

