



If you want a little celebration, this is the perfect time of year for patriotic pinwheels! They're easy, fun, and give you a chance to talk to your children about why we really still do live in a Christian nation and what they need to do to keep it that way.

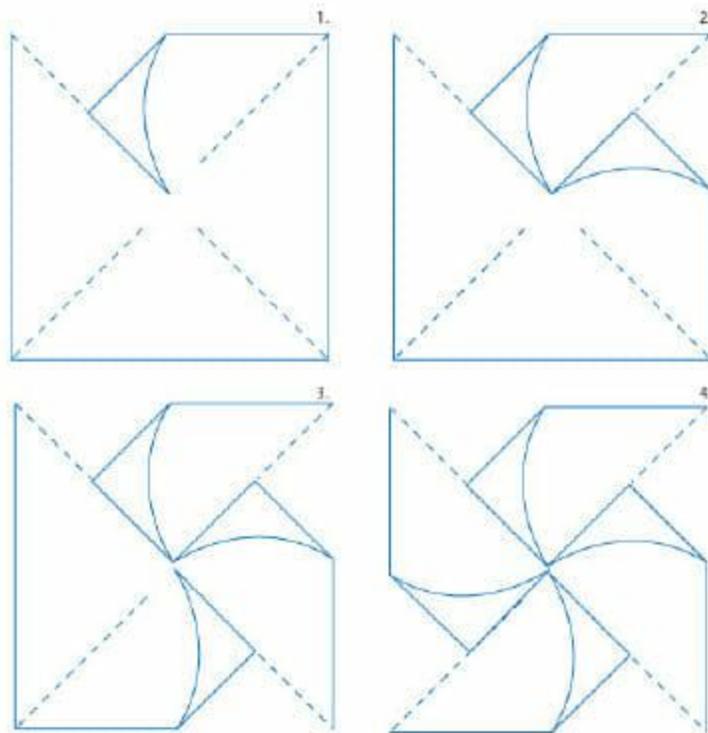
Materials

- Sturdy scrapbooking paper, one sheet of a red pattern, one sheet of a blue pattern for each child.
- Pushpins, one for each child
- New pencils (Red, white, and blue if possible. If not, yellow or any color is fine.)
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil, sharpened for use
- Stick glue

Preparation

Cut the craft paper into 4-by-4 or 5-by-5-inch squares.

See the illustration below for prep and to guide older children. Cut along the dotted lines for younger children. You can mark in pencil for older children. Don't do any folding yet unless you want to make a sample.



Instructions

1. Place a piece of red scrapbook paper and a piece of blue scrapbook paper and lay them face down on a table. Apply stick glue fairly liberally. (Note: Do not use craft glue here, as it bubbles.)
2. Apply the two pieces back-to-back and flatten on the table.
3. Cut along the dotted lines in the illustration above.

4. Fold back the points of each triangle as shown.
5. Make sure you are holding all four points down with your finger.
6. Press a pushpin in the center, catching all four points. Wiggle the pin around a little bit to make the hole bigger and allow the pinwheel to eventually turn with ease.
7. Press the pushpin all the way through, then stick it deep into the eraser on the pencil. Do not squish the pinwheel in with the pin as it won't move. In fact, leave a millimeter loose.
8. Blow and watch the patriotic pinwheels turn.



Fire rockets and fireworks are a huge part of celebrating past battles won. They also work well to remind children that celebrations mean great sacrifices have been made and that God often helps us to work hard and earn our right to celebrate!

Materials

- Empty toilet-paper or paper towel rolls
- Red-white-and-blue wrapping paper, or craft paper in several designs or you could use paint or markers
- Red and blue plain craft or wrapping paper
- Saran wrap
- White or silver curling ribbon
- Red-white-and-blue candies of your choice
- Drinking glass
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stick glue

Preparation

1. The tops of the rockets are made out of circles. As circles are hard for children to cut, you can cut them out yourself. Take a tall drinking glass and make circles on the red and blue plain paper.
2. After cutting the circles, cut a straight line up to the center of the circle.

3. To finish the rocket tops for smaller children, overlap the cut edges of the circle, which will pull the paper in to form the cone shape of the rocket top. Lay a line of stick glue between the layers and allow it to dry.
4. Cut off four pieces of curling ribbon the length of your arm for each student.

Instructions

1. Cut the wrapping paper to the length and width of the toilet-paper roll, plus an added inch to the width (this is where you could use paint or markers instead)
2. Run a line of stick glue down one side of the toilet-paper roll and fit the paper to it. Add more glue to the back of the paper before laying the overlapping paper on it.
3. Cover one rim of the covered toilet-paper roll with craft glue
4. Place the rocket cone on top, spinning it slightly to make sure the craft glue holds well.
5. To make the bag for the candy, rip off a piece of Saran wrap into a square. Place the candy in the center, and pull up the sides.
6. Tie three of the ribbons around the center of one ribbon. Tie the solo ribbon around the candy bag, down near the candy to prevent spilling.
7. Curl all four ribbons and stick the candy bag inside the tube, allowing the ribbons to hang out the bottom like rocket fire.