

Cricut Design: Custom Fridge Magnets Activity

Objective: Participants will design and create personalized fridge magnets using felt, small circle magnets, and the Cricut machine, fostering creativity and practical crafting skills.

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials Checklist:

- **Felt Sheets:** Assorted colors for diverse designs.
- **Small Circle Magnets:** One per participant.
- **Cricut Machine:** For cutting felt shapes.
- **Cricut Design Software:** For creating and sending designs to the machine.
- **Fabric Glue or Hot Glue Guns:** For attaching magnets to felt.
- **Transfer Tape:** For handling delicate designs.
- **Scraper Tools:** For applying designs to felt.
- **Cleaning Wipes:** For prepping felt surfaces.
- **Markers/Pens:** For adding details to felt designs.
- **Decorative Elements:** Such as googly eyes, sequins, or small beads.
- **Protective Mats:** To prevent glue from damaging tables.

Preparatory Steps:

Pre-Activity Setup:

- Pre-cut felt into manageable pieces.
- Prepare a variety of designs in the Cricut Design Space.
- Ensure the Cricut machine is set up with the appropriate cutting mats and blades for felt.

Design Preparation:

- Create a library of pre-designed shapes and templates for participants to choose from.
- Ensure all materials, including weeding tools and transfer tape, are readily available.

Participant Setup:

- Arrange tables and seating for participants to work comfortably.
- Distribute felt sheets, small circle magnets, and other materials.

Instruction and Safety Briefing:

Provide Clear Instructions:

- Explain the steps for creating fridge magnets using the Cricut machine.

- Conduct a brief safety briefing on handling weeding tools, glue, and the Cricut machine.

Activity Breakdown:

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- **Welcome Participants:** Greet participants warmly and introduce the day's activity.
- **Explain Activity:** Explain that they will be creating personalized fridge magnets using felt and small circle magnets, cut with the Cricut machine.
- **Discuss Importance:** Discuss how this activity combines creativity with practical crafting skills.

2. Design and Creation Activity (35 minutes)

- **Distribute Materials:** Hand out felt sheets, small circle magnets, weeding tools, transfer tape, markers, and decorative elements to each participant.
- **Demonstration:**
 - Show participants how to use the Cricut Design Space to choose or create their designs.
 - Demonstrate how to set up the Cricut machine for cutting felt:
 - Load the felt onto the cutting mat and secure it.
 - Select the appropriate blade and settings in the Cricut Design Space.
 - Send the design to the Cricut machine and start the cutting process.
 - Demonstrate how to weed the cut felt shapes and attach the small circle magnets:
 - Carefully remove the excess felt around the cut design.
 - Apply a small amount of glue to the back of the felt shape.
 - Press the magnet onto the glue and hold it in place until it sets.
- **Participants Create Magnets:**
 - Allow participants to use the Cricut machine to cut their felt shapes.
 - Encourage them to decorate their felt shapes with additional elements like googly eyes, sequins, or markers.
 - Walk around to provide assistance and tips as needed.

3. Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- **Showcase Fridge Magnets:** Invite participants to share their personalized fridge magnets with the group. Highlight a few unique designs and praise the creativity shown by the participants.
- **Discuss Creativity:** Discuss how engaging in creative activities enhances learning and develops important skills.
- **Feedback and Questions:** Collect feedback on the activity and answer any questions participants may have. Briefly preview the next activity or session to keep participants engaged.

Ed Guide:

Safety Script: "Before we begin our exciting fridge magnet activity, let's review some important safety guidelines. Always handle the Cricut machine, weeding tools, and glue with care. If you are using a hot glue gun, be extra cautious to avoid burns. If you have any questions or encounter any issues, please let me know immediately. Remember, safety is our priority to ensure everyone has a fun and safe time. Thank you!"

Rhetoric: "Feel free to take your time and incorporate several pauses. Ideally, participants will be so engrossed in the activity that they can barely hear you. This fundamental information will be reiterated multiple times throughout the program. Each reading will last about 2 minutes."

The Importance of Personalization: "Personalization allows us to express our individuality and creativity. By adding your designs to your fridge magnets, you make them uniquely yours. This activity helps you appreciate the value of making items your own and shows how personal touches can transform everyday objects into something special."

Enhancing Creativity through Hands-On Activities: "Engaging in creative activities like this enhances our learning and develops important skills. By creating your fridge magnets, you're not just decorating an object – you're practicing problem-solving, fine motor skills, and design thinking. These skills are valuable in many areas of life and learning, including our upcoming field trip."

Analysis:

Objective Clarity: The objectives of the fridge magnet activity are clearly stated, focusing on fostering creativity, self-expression, and practical crafting skills.

Engagement: The use of felt and magnets, along with the Cricut machine, enhances engagement by providing participants with hands-on experience in personalizing their fridge magnets. The interactive nature of the activity adds excitement and personal involvement.

Structured Stages: The activity is structured into stages including introduction, design and creation, and wrap-up. This ensures a clear progression of tasks and maximizes participant involvement in each stage of the activity.

Moderator Involvement: The role of the educator moderator is crucial in guiding participants through the stages, providing instructions on using the Cricut machine and applying vinyl, and facilitating group discussions to share their creations.