

EGG HEADS & TIN CAN HAIR SALON



THESE EGG HEADS AND TIN CAN people are a fun, first growing project for children to try. For both of these projects, the growing grass becomes the hair that can be clipped and styled. For the eggs, use markers and googly eyes to make faces. For the tin cans, use magnetic accessories to add faces.

MATERIALS

For the Egg Heads

- Empty eggshells (try to break off just the top to empty them so you have a good-size shell left to use)
- Empty egg carton
- Marker pens
- Stick-on googly eyes (optional but fun)
- Cotton balls
- Garden cress or grass seeds

For the Tin Can Hair Salon

- Empty tin (not aluminum) cans, lids removed with a can opener that leaves no sharp edges, and washed clean
- Card stock
- Scissors
- Pens and pencils
- Small magnets or magnetic strip
- Double-sided transparent tape or glue dots
- Compost
- Garden cress or grass seeds

Decide whether you'll be making egg heads or tin can people. If using eggs, wash out the eggshells and set them in the egg carton to keep them steady (place them on a cotton-ball cushion to raise them up a bit if you need to). If using cans, use a clean and empty tin can, with the lid removed with a can opener that leaves no sharp edges. Usually when we are planting anything, we make sure there are drainage holes at the base of the container. This time, as we're going to be playing with these egg heads and tin can people indoors and we don't want water running out over our play space, don't make any holes in the bottom. Do just take care not to overwater the plants.

Draw some crazy faces on your eggshells with markers, adding the googly eyes if you've got some. For the cans, use the card stock, pens, and pencils to draw some eyes, noses, mouths, glasses, bow ties, and hats. Cut out each item and attach a small magnet to the back with the double-sided transparent tape or glue dots. You could do self-portraits or funny faces.

Put some cotton balls inside the eggshells and dampen them with water. Sprinkle cress or grass seeds all over the cotton balls—good coverage will give you a full head of hair. Fill each tin can with compost, leaving about an inch free at the top. Sprinkle on some grass seeds and then cover the seeds with a little more compost. Place the egg-

shells or cans on a windowsill and wait for the hair to sprout. It'll take only a couple of days. Add a little bit of water if the cotton balls or compost dry out, but not too much.

Once your grass has grown a little, you're ready to set up your hair salon. You can add real hair clips and ponytail holders to the growing hair, and the great thing about using grass rather than cress for this project is that you can snip it into different styles and it will then grow back ready for another trim in a few days' time.

