

THANKSGIVING ACTIVITIES



Coffee Filter Turkeys Preschool-2nd grade

You Need: Coffee Filters, Washable Markers, Clothes Pins, Spray Bottle or Eye Droppers

-Flatten coffee filters and allow kids to color them with washable markers. Move the coffee filters to a safe place to dry-craft mat, baking sheet lined with paper, etc. Using either a spray bottle or water dropper, wet the coffee filters enough that the colors begin to bleed. Smaller hands do well with eye droppers (or even a turkey baster!). Spray bottles are great as kids get a bit older and have larger hands. Let dry.

-You can pre-decorate clothes pins by painting them brown with eyes (wiggly eyes are always fun), a beak, and a wattle. Or print and paste a turkey face onto clothes pins.

-Once both clothes pin and filters are dry fold the coffee filter in half and clothespin the middle! You can add magnets on the back of the clothes pin for extra fun.

PRO TIP: Paint a few extra clothespins brown and save them for reindeer crafts!

Science: The water dissolves the water soluble ink. The fibers in the coffee filters are absorbent and allow the ink to blur. Permanent marker will not bleed as it is not water soluble.

Cranberry Secret Ink (Kindergarten-4th grade)

-Write your message: In a small container mix about 1/3 of a cup of warm water with baking soda. Use a paintbrush or Q-tip to paint your secret message. Set aside and let dry. You can use a blow dryer to speed up the process if you'd like.

-Create your Cranberry decoder ink: There are a few options here. Regular cranberry juice is not concentrated enough. You can reduce it by bringing it to a boil and then simmer for about 12 minutes or until it deepens in color or appears to become syrupy.

-If you've made a Cranberry Bog Sensory Bin you can make your own juice using the leftover cranberries. Boil about half a bag of cranberries in three cups of water. **USE A LID!** Cranberries pop as they cook. Boil for about 15 minutes. Remove from heat and press the cranberries into a sieve to create a concentrated liquid.

-Option number three is to boil about half a can of cranberries sauce in with some water creating a concentrated liquid.

-Reveal your message. You can use a paintbrush to paint the cranberry mixture over the drawings or pour it into a shallow baking dish or tub and dip the drawing into the mixture.

PRO TIP: If the reaction doesn't seem to work- add lemon juice to the cranberry mixture to increase the acidity. Let your messages dry. You can even color them later!

The Science: This is an acid/base experiment. Cranberry juice is very acidic and baking soda is a base. Cranberries- like red cabbage, berries, and some purple grapes- contain a water-soluble pigment called anthocyanin that gives them their color. The acid/ base reaction makes the pigment from the cranberries change color!

Sensory Bin:

Cranberry Bog!

This one is so easy! Cranberries naturally float. Create your own cranberry bog by adding a bag or two of raw cranberries into a water proof bin. Give your kids various scoops and strainers to play with and empty clear containers to transfer the cranberries into!

Bonus points: If you want to add color to the water o make it more fun you can!

Read the book Time For Cranberries by Lisl H. Detlefsen all about Sam joining in on his first cranberry harvest with his family to learn more about how cranberries are harvested!

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Cranberry Shapes and Structures (Kindergarten -5th grade)

Use toothpicks and cranberries to create flat and 3-D shapes! Similar to the gumdrop activity- this one takes a little more skill to poke through! Use the toothpicks as lines and the cranberries to connect. Can you make a triangle, a cube, a rectangle? For older children challenge them to build even more complicated structures!

Menu or Place Cards Lettering/ Letter Tracing (Preschool-2nd grade)

Hosting Thanksgiving? Put your kids to work making place cards to practice tracing or writing letters. Or learn about food and spelling food by writing or tracing out the day's menu. Have fun and decorate! You can always create your own menu for a pretend feast as well!

Make a Pinecone Turkey Like Tuyet! (Preschool-3rd grade)

In **No Turkey for Thanksgiving**, the lead character Tuyet made a pinecone turkey. Make your own! There are so many ways to make these. Turn the pinecone sideways. The narrower part of the pinecone will be the head and the fuller part is the tail. I like using a brown pompom or making a construction paper face- give your turkey eyes, a beak, and a wattle. Now here's when you can get creative you can use construction paper, leaves, feathers, a tracing of your hand- almost anything to give your turkey a full feather tail!

Cornucopia Bean Bag Toss (All ages!)

These are fairly easy to make.

- Take a good sized box and cut at a diagonal along the two large faces.
- Paint the box a solid background color and add a large cornucopia.
- Cut one large hole for the mouth of the cornucopia. (I'll try to create a large template for this one- stay tuned!)
- Now grab some bean bags and toss them in.

You can make your own bean bags pretty easily by sewing squares. Sew along the edges leaving a 2-3 inch hole. Then flip the square so that the smooth seam is to the outside and fill with dried beans, rice, etc. Finish sewing the top securely. If you're fancy you can make fruit shaped bean bags.

OR purchase bean bags- I like these that come in a variety of shapes and can be used for other activities.

Visit our [movement activity link](#) for our Thanksgiving Twist on a classic game!