

MAKE A MUD HUT

Materials Needed:

Popsicle sticks
Sheet of cardboard (1 per group)
Glue
Tape
Mud (Or clay, which will probably be less messy.)
Grass
Construction paper

Instructions:

1. This craft requires a little more work, so have the children work in groups.
2. Lay down two popsicle sticks horizontally.
3. Glue other popsicle sticks across them vertically until you have a flat piece. This will be one wall. (How many sticks depends on the size of sticks you are using. The wider sticks will be about seven across.)
4. Repeat step one until you have four 'walls'. Older kids may want to try to leave a 'door' in one of the walls.
5. Prop the four 'walls' up together to form a square and tape them together.
6. Glue a couple of sticks across the top to make support for the roof.
7. Place the house on the cardboard sheet and use the mud or clay to cover the walls. (If you're using mud, it should be drier mud, so it will stick and not slide off.)
8. Cut a square of construction paper a little bigger than the top of the house. Glue the grass pieces to it, then glue the paper to the roof support sticks. This is your roof.
9. The house is finished, but if the kids want, they can add things to the 'yard'.

**If the popsicle stick walls are too complicated or you are short for time, use a small box (like an animal cracker box) as the body of the house and cover that with mud/clay instead.





MUD VILLAGE

In the spirit of the mess the little lemurs and the cubs got into while rebuilding Madala's hut, take your children outside and let them have fun in the mud. Use a tap or a hose to make a river, and let the kids build up a little village alongside of it. They can make boats out of stick and leaves to sail up and down the river. Older kids might want to try a more authentic version of today's craft, and see if they can build a house (or a castle, or whatever they want) out of sticks and mud. Be sure to have some water and towels for washing up at the end!