

Plushie Pillows

Best for Ages

6+

Workspace

Flat indoor surface

Is electricity required?

No

Description

Plushie Pillows are homemade pillows with a little bit of pizzazz! In this activity we'll learn how to make a fun pillow using tying instead of a needle and thread.

Materials

- Cloth material: old t-shirts, fabric scraps, towels, sheets, or blankets
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Stapler (for tired hands)
- Fun Embellishments: foam, felt, googly eyes, sequins, glitter, fabric paint, construction paper, buttons, fabric scraps
- Stuffing: Polyfill or stuffing from an old stuffie at home, or try filling it with other soft materials such as marshmallows, old t-shirts, or cotton balls.

Concepts Explored

- Tying Knots
- Upcycling Materials

What to Do

1. Cut two shapes out of your cloth material. I used rectangles, but it can be any shape as long as you have enough cloth to make two of equal size.
2. Align the pieces and then cut $\frac{1}{2}$ -1" wide and 3" long slits around the edge of the fabric on all sides.
3. When you are finished, you should have two slits of fabric lying on top of one another.
4. Take the two slits on top of one another and tie them in a knot. See image for tying help. Tie all pairs around all but one side. You need to leave one opening to put your stuffing inside.
5. Stuff your plushie!
6. Once stuffed, continue tying the remaining paired slits so that stuffing remains inside the plushie.
7. Now it's time to bring your plushie to life! Add embellishments for maximum cuteness.



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Troubleshooting Tips

- It helps to use a different color or pattern of cloth for the two shapes. This makes it easier to see which cut slits align with one another.
- Tying is hard! It take patience and practice. Try tying together, but when struggle turns into giving up, feel free to use a stapler to attach the edges!



Old pajamas transformed into a Plushie

What happens to the fabric as you tie the edges?

Which materials are easier to tie than others?

What surprised you about this activity?

What is Happening?

- **Tying Knots** is a difficult skill for anyone to master. It takes practice, hand-eye coordination, and muscle memory. Knots are secure fastenings of a string, rope, or other tieable material. This skill has many everyday uses from tying shoelaces, to securing parcels!
- This activity is a great way of **upcycling materials** you have around the house. Reusing discarded objects or underused materials reduces waste, and gives new life to things you already have around you!

Taking it Forward

- **Connecting this activity to the real world:**
 - Look for things that are tied around your home. Count how many things are tied. Look for things like shoes, necklaces, fishing poles, guitars, toys, clothing with ties, and more!
- **If you like this activity, you'll also like...**
 - Simple Sewing
 - Weaving