

Pajaki Chandeliers



Pajaki are a traditional Polish folk craft made of paper and rye straw. These mobile hangings date back to the 18th century when they were made by women in the countryside to decorate their homes and ward off bad luck. Often made for Christmas or Easter they brought colour and joy and good luck into homes during the cold winter months.

Inspired by Pajaki, we've adapted this craft for children using colored construction paper, paper straws, beads and tissue paper. If you don't have these materials, get creative and use what you have on hand!

Learn how to make your own Pajaki chandelier by following along with our video at this link:

<https://vimeo.com/eskereducation/pajakichandelier>

Or by following the instructions below.

MATERIALS:

- Embroidery hoop, metal hoop or paper plate
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- String, twine, or yarn
- 4 or 5 pieces of coloured construction paper
- Paper or plastic straws
- Tissue paper and beads (optional)

STEP 1: The first part of this project is to prep the materials we'll be using. Cut your construction paper into small paper circles or squares and punch a hole in the middle of each shape. Cut your straws into smaller pieces about 2" long.

STEP 2: Prepare your hoop. If you don't have a hoop, you can use a paper plate by cutting the centre out and just using the outer rim of the plate. You will need to punch 4 to 8 holes on the outer rim of the plate, depending on how many strings you'd like to decorate. Cut pieces of yarn or string for the upper portion of your chandelier. These should all be the same length. Space the strings out evenly and tie them onto your hoop.

STEP 2 CONTD.: If you are using a paper plate, see instructions for threading your hoop in our video above.

STEP 3: Assemble the upper portion of your chandelier. Thread your straws, beads and paper shapes onto your strings working one thread at a time from bottom to top. Once you have strung all of your strings, tie them together in a loop at the top.

STEP 4: Assemble the bottom portion of your chandelier. You will need half the number of strings on the bottom portion as you did on the top portion of your chandelier. Cut these strings to be the same length. Tie one end onto your hoop. String your shapes and straws and beads onto your string and then tie it onto the other side of your hoop creating a droopy 'U' shape. Do this for each of your strings so that they cross over each other at the bottom forming a 'U' shape.

STEP 4 (OPTIONAL): Make some simple tissue paper flowers by folding a small rectangle of tissue paper accordion-style, folding it in half, tying a piece of string around the middle and cutting vertically down towards the centre. Tie these flowers onto your hoop or strings as a final decorative touch.