

CRAFT

BREAK IT, REMAKE IT: FREAKY ANIMALS

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens

DESCRIPTION

Older children take apart their old toys and put them back together again!

Asking participants to bring their old toys from home will minimize costs, but be prepared with extras on hand for those who do not bring any. Give out nametags for both participants and the monstrosities they create. For younger children or quicker programs, disassemble toys beforehand. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes



Image source: Martha Matthews of MidPointe Library System

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Make or gather pictures of examples (search “frankentoys”) to help spark their imaginations. You might also provide reference books of different animals.

For tearing toys apart, you will need:

- Scissors
- Pliers
- Clamps (optional)

For putting toys back together, you will need:

- Hot glue
- Superglue
- Duct tape
- Needles and thread
- Whatever craft materials you have on hand (e.g., markers, ribbons, feathers, felt, beads, wire, etc.)

You will also need:

- Plastic bins to sort the supplies
- Extra toys (thrifted stuffed animals, toy cars, robots, etc.)
- Wooden plaques
- Nametags

ADAPTATION:

Teens could also make cute and/or franken-crochet creatures.

Super Easy Amigurumi: Crochet Cute Animals (2017) by Mitsuki Hoshi is a good how-to book for beginners.

ADAPTATION:

For teens or adults, partner with a Makerspace (or local equivalent) and have teens or adults break/remake their old electronics. This adaptation would require more complex supplies, such as hand tools, work gloves, eye protection, a first aid kit, and a soldering iron. Be aware that some electronics may contain hazardous components, such as heavy metals.

TIP:

Modify materials based on audience age; you might also let younger children create creatures out of Lego or Duplo blocks.

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UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Volunteers are recommended to help take difficult things apart. If you use hot glue guns, you will need outlets nearby.

RESOURCES

Web

Frankentoys from Teen Services Underground blog: <https://bit.ly/2LGmgNK>

Bulk wooden plaques: <https://amzn.to/2WlwKTd>

Tech Take Apart from *School Library Journal*: <https://bit.ly/3clwdWF>

Tech Take Apart *The Travelin' Librarian* blog: <https://bit.ly/2yhq84l>

Fiction

Middle Grade

Brilliant (2015) by Roddy Doyle and Emily Hughes

YA

Alice In Wonderland (1865) by Lewis Carroll

Beast Heart (Steambound #1) (2020) by Kyle Richardson

The Beast Is an Animal (2017) by Peternelle Van Arsdale

The Beast Player (2019) by Nahoko Uehashi

Beastly Bones (Jackaby #2) (2015) by William Ritter

Unhooked (2016) by Lisa Maxwell

Some Kind of Animal (2020) by Maria Romasco Moore

Adult Nonfiction

The Big Book of Hacks (2018) by Popular Science

Crap Taxidermy (2014) by Kat Su

Unscrewed (2011) by Ed Sobey