



Make your own...

Carnival crown



UNIVERSITY
OF LEEDS

You will need:

- A3 paper or card
- Scissors
- Glue or sticky tape
- Decorating materials
- Staples or a paper-clip

Instructions

Before you begin...

If you have a printer at home, you can print a template for your crown!

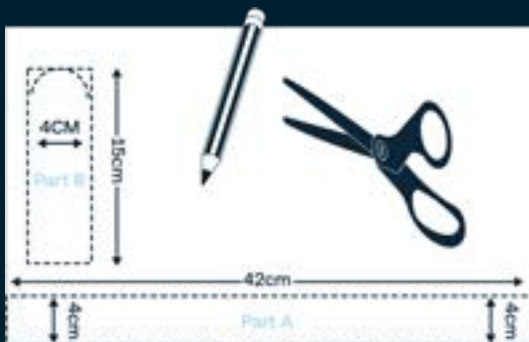


1. Cut

Take your piece of A3 paper or card, a ruler and a pencil.

Part A: Mark out a strip that is 42cm wide by 4cm high. Cut out your strip.

Part B: Mark out a strip that is 4cm wide by 15cm high. Cut out this strip. Use your scissors to create a curved edge at one end.



2. Assemble

Use some glue or sticky tape to attach Part A to part B.

Now you have the base for your crown.



3. Get creative

Now for the fun part! Decorate your crown with things from around the house. Reuse items you thought were waste — they can be colourful, creative, and fun!



4. Made to measure

Once you've decorated your crown, wrap it around your head so that it sits comfortably. Glue or tape the connecting strips together. You may need to adjust the length to fit your head.

5. Show it off!

Your crown is ready! Put it on and celebrate—you're now part of the Banyan Carnival troupe!



Now try this!

Can you design matching carnival accessories using leftover materials? Try making wristbands, glasses, or necklaces to go with your crown — all from reused or recycled items!



Inspired by research

Did you know Leeds Carnival is one of the oldest Caribbean-style carnivals in Europe? It started in 1967 and celebrates colourful costumes, music, and Caribbean culture—just like the big carnivals in Trinidad and Tobago, Notting Hill Carnival in London, and Caribana in Canada!

Carnival costumes are full of sparkle, feathers, and bright colours. But many of the materials used—like plastic beads and glitter—can be harmful to the planet because they don't break down easily. After the carnival, lots of costumes get thrown away, which creates waste.

That's why engineers and designers at the University of Leeds are working with local artists to find better ways to make costumes. They're exploring how to use recycled and biodegradable materials, eco-friendly paints, and clever designs that can be reused or taken apart after the carnival.

Now it's your turn to be a carnival designer! In this activity, you'll make your own crown using recycled and eco-friendly materials. You'll learn how to be creative while helping the planet—just like the artists and engineers working behind the scenes of Leeds Carnival.

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