Pretty Paper Globes

I adapted these pretty, colorful, paper globes from the 1960's era Christmas decorations we made with my mom when I was about 9 or 10 years old. We used red and green construction paper. Then we glued on assorted sequins and glitter in the center of each circle to give them extra sparkle. But first we had to cut each circle by hand! Fortunately, I have found a few shortcuts that make them easier then ever!

I am always looking for projects to do with my younger grandchildren. I remembered these globes and decided to try them with three of my grands: Bella, 14, Sophia, 7 & Levi, 6. Bella and I helped Levi and Sophia when needed. It was easier after I numbered each triangle. Once the kids got it, there was no stopping them! They experimented using more & less circles and came up with some great ideas!

After the kids went home, I decided to continue making the globes. I am always looking for something to do in the evening. This was an easy project to do while watching TV at night with Jack.

You can use these decorations for so many occasions; from birthdays and anniversaries to wedding and baby showers, July 4th, Christmas and holidays, and anything in between! All you need is your imagination!

Look for the helping hand to get helpful hints.

Supply List

- Assorted paper card stock*
- 2 ½ inch Lever Punch*
- Heavy duty glue sticks
- Cardboard triangle – optional
- Wax paper – I use a sheet of wax paper when using glue or paint.
- Plastic tablecloth – I reuse plastic tablecloths to keep any mess from getting on the table. It makes clean-up so easy. No mess, no stress!
- Assorted ribbon or string – optional

*Specific materials I used from Michael's:
1. 12 x 12 inch paper pads in the following designs: Pebbles, Hello Spring, Palm Springs, and Creative Heart. They were originally $19.99 each. The pads were on sale for $5.00 when I bought the first pad. When I went back a week later, they were buy one get two free, so I bought three more. I have a lot of paper left over to use for other projects. The grands love looking through the pretty papers to make cards, designs, etc.
2. I tried several 2 ½ inch paper punches. The one that worked the best for me was from Michael's, by Recollections. It was $16.00, but I used a coupon. There is always a coupon if something is not on sale. You can also try different sizes of paper punches or cut them out yourself.

Directions

1. Choose an assortment of paper colors and designs that you would like to use for your globes.

2. Using the 2 ½ inch lever punch, punch out your paper circles. You will need 20 circles for each round globe or 24 circles for a flat, wider globe.

3. To make it easier to see the layers for the demonstration, I used one color paper per layer. (But you can choose any colors or patterns that you would like.) I have also numbered one side of each of the circles per layer: 1, 2, 3 and 4. That helps to keep from getting mixed up when attaching the pieces together. You can also number each layer on the inside as you complete a layer. Our mix-ups did result in some fun and interesting designs while we were playing around with the pieces. There are no mistakes, only delightful surprises! That is serendipity!

Cut a cardboard triangle that has equal sides. Make it just a tiny bit smaller than the circle so that when you fold over the circle flaps there is no space and you have a sharp point. This helps them fit together evenly when assembling it. See picture below.

4. Place the cardboard triangle in the middle of a paper circle, centering it so there are three equal sides of the circle. Make sure the number is on the back side of the circle. Fold over each side of the circle to form a triangle. Do not leave space between the folded points. Remove the triangle and use it for the next. Do this for all of the circles.

5. Once all of the circles are folded, it is time to begin assembling the globe. Begin by taking all the triangles with the number one on the back. Using the glue stick, glue one flap of each triangle to another, until you have glued all of the triangles together, forming a shallow bowl shape. The #1, and all of the other numbers, will be on the inside of the globe when finished.

6. Once all of the #1 triangles are glued together, gather the #2 triangles and glue one flap from each #2 triangle to one flap of the #1 triangle.

Look! You just have made a star! Either side could be the front. A little glitter and a ribbon and you have a beautiful decoration for your Christmas tree! Or use it for a unique gift tag or make a lovely wall hanging. You could attach it to a folded piece of paper and you have just made a unique greeting card! Serendipity! What other creative ideas can you come up with? Share your ideas!

7. Back to the globe. Now is time to gather all of the #3 triangles. This time, you will be attaching two sides of the #3 triangle to one flap of two #2 triangles that are next to each other. It will end of looking like a bowl. You should be able to see all of the numbers on the inside.

If you want to hang the globes, you could attach ribbon or string before you attach the #4 triangles. Push the ribbon from the inside, small opening at the center of the #1 triangles. Glue and tape the ends of the ribbon to the inside #1 triangles. Or, attach the ribbon after they are assembled by putting a small amount of hot glue into the opening and pushing the ribbon into the center hole.

8. To finish, take all of the #4 triangles and attach them to the remaining flap of the #3 triangles. Then attach the sides of the #4 triangles to each other. All three sides should be attached. Voila! You have a lovely paper globe!

Fun Variations

1. Use 8 circles and make a small globe. String them together to make a garland for across the fireplace or across the top of your windows. Or, hang the garland from the ceiling in rows to make a cool room divider or wall decoration. Try using the different globes to make it even more creative and interesting!

2. To make a different shaped globe, flat on the top and bottom and wider in the middle, cut out 24 circles. Use 6 triangles on the top and follow the rest of the directions using 6 trinagles for each layer instead of 5.

3. The globes can be piled into a large basket or bowl to add a pop of color anywhere!

4. I also made larger globes, using 4 inch circles. I then used 5 or 6 of the larger circles for each layer and made larger globes that I hung from the dining room light fixture with pretty sheer ribbon.

Unfortunately, I had to cut the larger circles by hand. I purchased several different 3 1/2" lever punches, but none of them worked so I returned them. It was just another good project to do while watching TV with Jack at night.

5. Make topiaries by putting the globe on the top of different candlesticks or vintage stemware. Or insert a painted dowel rod into the bottom and "plant" it into a pretty pot that you painted!

6. Glue the triangles with the flap on the inside to get a smooth globe!

When working with children, there are bound to be mistakes which can lead to frustration or just wanting to quit. How you react is vital to the success of the project and, more importantly, your child. There are really no mistakes that cannot be fixed or a lesson learned. (Believe me, I have made plenty. I am still learning and have not given up yet!) Find a creative solution. Be encouraging. That is how children learn resilience, flexibility, self-compassion, patience, responsibility and stick-to-it-tive-ness. Not sure if that is even a word, but you get my point. This is also a good time to teach kids what serendipity means, finding the unexpected. I remember when my daughter, Sarah, was in first grade and was so excited when she learned the definition of serendipity. It became a very special word and way of finding something totally unexpected!

Another Fun Idea

We cut out a lot of paper circles. A lot! We had a bunch of circles left. When I made the globes, I cut out a lot of of patterns and colors and laid them out on a table. I would pick what pattern or color I wanted to use as I assembled the globes. I had a lot of extra circles too.

I was just messing around with the extra circles and came up with another idea that was super easy to make. Younger kids will love this too if the other globes are a bit too hard. They can be used just the like the other globes. I put a bunch in a bowl for a bright colorful table decoration. I also strung ribbon through them and made a cute garland for the fireplace. They can be any size, depending on the size of the circles. I used the 2 ½" circle since I had so many left over.

Materials

· Same materials as for Pretty Paper Globes - can use leftover circles
· Cardstock circles
· Glue sticks
· Assorted ribbon or string – Optional

1. For each globe, I used eight 2 ½" paper circles. You can certainly use more or less circles or use different size circles. You are the artist! Be creative and have fun!

2. Fold each circle in half. Some cardstock has a white back rather then the same color on the front. Fold the circles together with the color you want to see on the **inside** of the fold.

3. Glue the back of the half circle to the back of another half circle using glue stick. Make sure the top arc is even.

4. Continue gluing each half circle until you all of the circles are attached.

5. If adding ribbon, for a garland, cut the length of ribbon you need. Before gluing the final two pieces together, lay the ribbon across the inside center of the globe. Then glue the the last two half circles together.