

HOW DO I MAKE A...

Pajaki Paper Chandelier



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MATERIALS

- Crepe paper
- Pom-poms
- Flat reeds
- Pony beads
- Colorful tape
- Photos of examples
- Crepe paper streamers
- White paper straws
- Key chain rings
- Yarn
- Glue



ACADEMIC SUBJECT(S):

Social Studies, Art

DEVELOPMENT SUBJECT AREAS:

Appreciating Diversity,
Adaptive Social Behavior,
Empathy, Fine Motor Skills

This lesson is brought to you by the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College. Explore & More is thrilled to partner with this organization to showcase Polish traditions, heritage and culture through activities, stories and food. Poland is a country located in central Europe. There are many people in Buffalo and WNY that have roots in Poland. Our community celebrates many Polish traditions at Easter, Christmas and throughout the year. We hope you enjoy these Polish activities and think about incorporating some of them in your family's yearly traditions!

Pajaki is Polish for "spider," and these delicate Polish "chandeliers" look like spiders made of paper and straws – originally, they were made from the leftover straw of the autumn harvest season. Pajak are part of a long Polish paper folk art tradition that includes paper cuttings and paper flower paintings. Traditionally, pajaki mobiles would be hung from the ceilings of Polish village homes during the Christmas season for protection during the hard, cold winter months.

DIRECTIONS



STEP 1 Bend a flat reed into a circle and secure with tape.

STEP 2 Tie several pieces of equal length string to the key chain ring. This will be the top of your pajaki mobile.

STEP 3 Cut out flowers or other shapes from your crepe paper and crepe paper streamers for you to use to decorate the strands of your pajaki.

STEP 4 String the pom-poms and crepe paper shapes onto the hanging key chain ring. Use the cut white straws as spacers between the shapes.



STEP 5 Tie the bottom of the string to the circle reed you prepared in Step 1.
Optional: You can add as many layers to this pajaki as you would like! If you wish to add a second layer you can tie equally cut strings around the reed and repeat the process until you have your desired final product.



STEP 6 Proudly hang your pajaki in your home to celebrate the holiday season and the Polish community!



VOCABULARY

PAJAKI: Pajaki is Polish for “spider,” and these delicate Polish “chandeliers” look like spiders made of paper and straws.

