

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will create a cardboard gingerbread house while exploring concepts of art, math, and science. They will learn about shapes, measurements, and basic construction while having fun with creativity!

Materials and Prep

- Cardboard (any kind will do)
- Scissors (adult supervision required)
- Glue or tape
- Markers, crayons, or paints for decoration
- Ruler (to help with measurements)
- Template for gingerbread house (optional)

Before starting, prepare a clean workspace and gather all materials. If using a template, print or draw it on cardboard for easier cutting.

Activities

- **Shape Exploration:** Start by identifying different shapes found in a gingerbread house. Cut out various shapes from cardboard (squares, triangles, rectangles) and discuss their names and properties.
- **Measuring and Cutting:** Use a ruler to measure and cut out the pieces for the gingerbread house. Explain how measuring helps us make sure everything fits together nicely!
- **Building the House:** Assemble the cut pieces using glue or tape. Encourage the student to think about how to make the house stable and what shape goes where.
- **Decorating:** Use markers, crayons, or paints to decorate the gingerbread house. Discuss colors and patterns while they create their masterpiece!

Talking Points

- "What shapes do you see in our gingerbread house? Can you find a square or a triangle?"
- "Let's measure our cardboard! How long do you think this piece is? Let's find out!"
- "Why do you think we need to glue these pieces together? What happens if we don't?"
- "What colors do you want to use to decorate? Can you make a pattern with your colors?"