

Cat Pom-Pom Toy

This lesson plan for school years 4 to 7, aims to use prior knowledge of the predatory behaviours of cats to make an interactive cat toy. Students understand the importance of mental and physical stimulation to ensure pet wellbeing and health. The download includes, Cat Pom-Pom Toy Instructions.

Resource Categories	Cat; Animal Needs and Care; Art/Craft; Activity
Suitable Age Level	Year Four to Year Seven
Desired Understandings	Students understand and identify the reasons for keeping cats indoors at night. They recognise the importance of mental and physical stimulation to ensure pet wellbeing and health.
Resources Required	Pom-Pom Template Pom-Pom YouTube Videos Cardboard Scissors Wool Stick
Additional AMRRIC resources to support lesson content	Where does it belong? House or Bush/Sea Felt Cat Breeding Mat Felt Cat What Cat, That Cat, How Many Cats?

Lesson Plan: Cat Pom-Pom Toy

Introduction

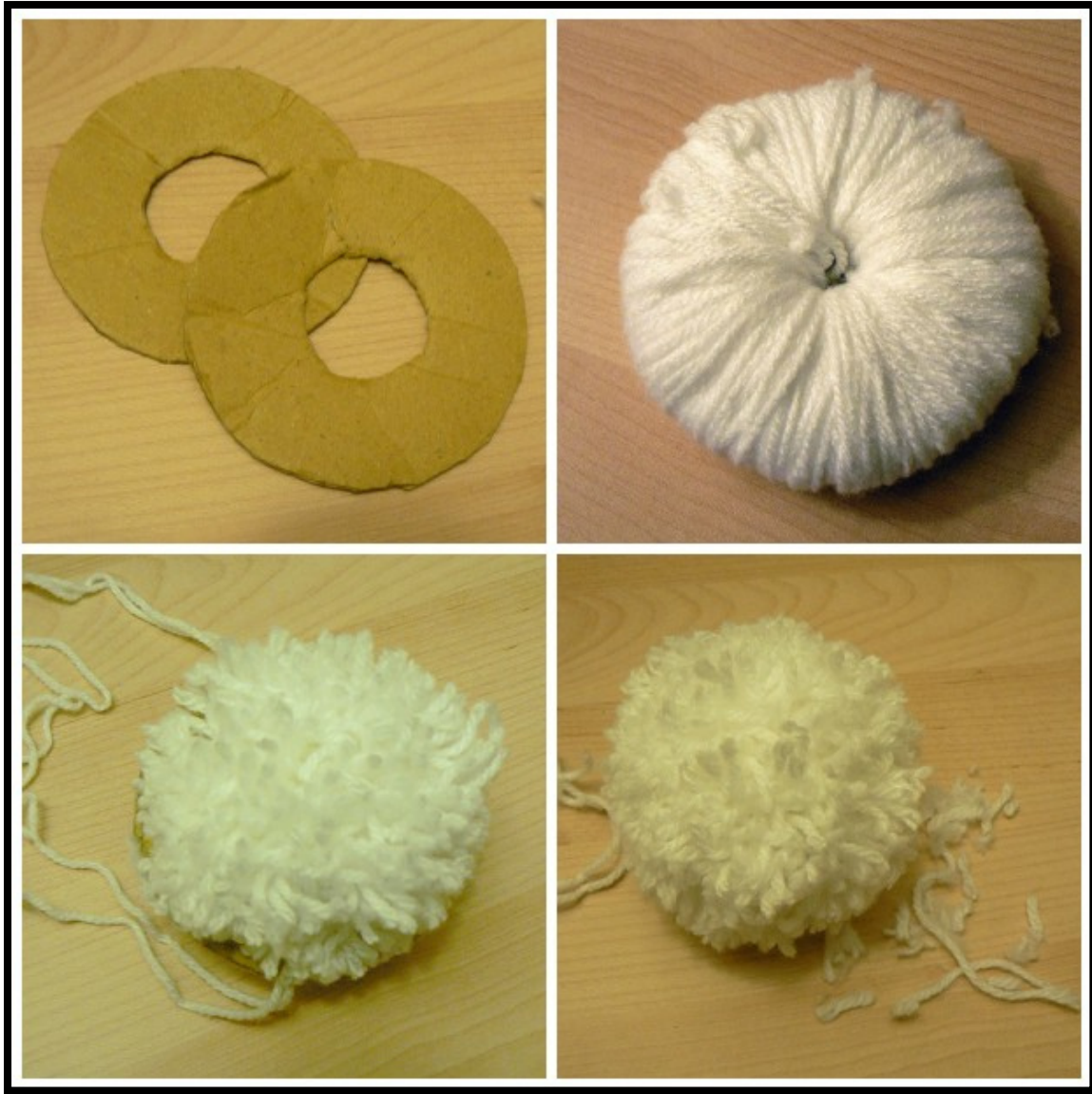
- Introduce the activity by asking if anyone owns a cat (*What does it look like? What colour is it? Where do they sleep at night?* etc.)
- Pose the question to the students, “*What do you think our cats do at night-time if they are not at home sleeping?*”
- Encourage students to think about the hunting capabilities of cats and the impacts this has on our native animals.
- Discuss the different types of animals that cats might hunt at night-time and during the day.
- Ask the students what they could do to stop their cats preying on native animals. Encourage students to think about keeping their cats inside.

Activity

- Inform students that when we keep our pets inside, they need things to entertain them.
- Introduce the Cat Pom-Pom.
- Explain to the students that toys help to keep our pets mentally and physically stimulated and prevent destructive behaviours occurring when pets are inside the home.
- Watch either of these instructional clips on how to make a pom-pom with the students.
 - How to make a Perfect Pom-pom every time:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zok9hqyhTQ4>
 - How to make the Perfect (Rainbow) Pom-Pom:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XM2qyPem0TU>
- Following on from the video, demonstrate the activity to the students on the floor, using pre-cut pom-pom templates.
- After the demonstration, students can begin their own pom-pom.
- Ensure that all students are seated to begin the activity.
- Hand each student a pom-pom template, pair of scissors and ball of wool.
- Students can now independently begin the activity.

Appendix A

Pom-Pom Step by step images



Cat Pom-Pom Toy Instructions

- Before beginning to make the pom-pom, collect a stick from outside. The pom-pom will eventually be attached to this stick.
- Cut out the Pom-Pom Templates onto strong cardboard. Use the first ring as a template for tracing and cutting the second ring, to ensure both rings are the same size and shape. Once both rings are cut out, hold the rings together, placing ring 1 over the top of ring 2.
- Start by using your selected wool and begin to wrap the wool around the cardboard rings, from the inside to out. Hold the end of the wool in place while you do this to ensure that it is secure and does not unravel.
- Start working your way around the cardboard rings filling all gaps with wool.
- Once you get to the other side of the cardboard rings work your way back in the opposite direction to which you started.
- Be careful when wrapping the wool around the cardboard rings that you keep a small distance from the edge of the rings to ensure that the wool does not slip off.
- Continue wrapping the wool around the cardboard rings until it is full and plump. You will notice that the centre of the circle is now very narrow.
- Using sharp pointed scissors cut through the wrapped wool in between the two outer edges of the rings. Make sure that each strand of wool is cut.
- Now that the wool has been cut away from the outer edges of the rings, cut approximately 20cm of wool and tie it around the middle of the pom-pom, slipping it in between the two cardboard rings. Pull the wool as tight as possible and secure with two knots. Leave the ends long as this will enable another piece of wool to be attached.
- Remove the Cardboard templates to reveal your pom-pom.
- If your pom-pom looks a little out of shape, trim edges to make it look even. Make sure you rotate your pom-pom as you do this to ensure that it stays even.
- Roll the newly trimmed pom-pom in your hands as this helps it to plump up and become fluffy.
- Use the long wool ends to attach to another piece of wool (around 30cm in length) and attach this to the stick. This provides a handle and will allow your cats to chase your new pom-pom toy.
- Time to have fun and practise using your new toy with your fury friend.