

Paper Plate Fish Tanks



You will need:

- Paper plates (any size)
- White glue
- Tissue paper or other colored paper
- Craft sand
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Optional: leaves, grass, rocks or shells

Instructions:

1. Use markers or crayons to color the paper plate blue; this will be the “water” for your fish tank.
2. Lightly cover the bottom third of your plate with white glue. Gently sprinkle sand over the glue; shake off excess sand and allow to dry.
3. While you are waiting for the glue to dry, it’s time to create your fish! Using colorful paper or tissue paper, draw and cut out fish shapes.
4. Create aquarium plants using twists of tissue paper, or look for interesting leaves and grass from outside that your “fish” might enjoy.
5. Use the white glue to attach your fish and plants to the aquarium surface.
6. If you have found rocks or have shells you would like to include, these should be glued on top of the sand as the final step.

Variations:

1. If you are using crayons to color your aquarium, try heating the paper plate with a hair dryer set on low. The warm plate will melt the crayon wax and create a water effect.
2. If you are using tissue paper to create your fish, try drawing a fish shape directly on your plate. Cut or tear the tissue paper into small pieces, which you will crumple into balls and then glue onto the fish shape. Your fish will look like it has bumpy scales!

This craft activity is adapted from a project shared on the website of the Children’s Museum of Easton. Photo is taken from the Children’s Museum of Easton.

