

Shell Planter

The conch is a gastropod mollusk, which means they are in the same family of such other mollusks as the slug and the snail and can be found in the warm waters of the Atlantic and the Caribbean. Conchs are edible and a Bahamian delicacy, however, Bahamians collect their shells and use it for such things like a planter filled with colorful flowers.

Try making your own planter in the decorative shell. This creative arts and craft project not only teaches your child about colors, it teaches him about types of shells as well as the art of design. In the end, you'll have a beautifully decorated centerpiece for your kitchen table.

What You Need:

- Conch shell (or any larger shell with an open mouth)
- Small bag of sand
- Colorful flowers
- Scissors

What You Do:

1. If you have access to a beach, try collecting various shells along the shoreline. If not, visit your local arts and craft store (or you can purchase online.) When looking at the different types, make it a point to name each shell. Is it a sea or land shell?
2. At the same arts and craft store, purchase a small bag of sand or if you prefer, soil.
3. Visit your local florist or have your child pick his favorite color flowers from the yard.
4. When you get home, have your child fill the open end of the shell up to the very top with sand. Be sure it's tightly packed in.
5. An adult should take each selected flower and clip the ends with a large pair of scissors.
6. Once clipped, have your child place the flowers of his choice in the compacted sand. Have him arrange the flowers any way he chooses.

Have your child place the decorated shell on the kitchen so the entire family can appreciate the beautiful piece of artwork!

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