

# Cake Color Game

## MATERIALS

**FOR STUDENTS:**  
(to make one cake)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Discs, three 15/16" x 5 7/8"
- Sparkle sheet foam flower stickers, four 2" diameter in colors you'd like students to learn
- Golf tees, four approx. 2" – 2 3/4" tall, colors to match flowers (or white so that they can be painted)
- Pony beads (10 mm diameter), approx. 60 assorted colors to match flowers and golf tees
- Paper plate
- Small plastic cups, four, to hold beads



## FOR TEACHER:

- Hot melt glue gun (for teacher only) or thick white tacky glue
- Paper punch, (that makes 1/4" diameter circles)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- If painting golf tees:
  - Fine sandpaper
  - Acrylic paint, four colors to match flowers
  - Scrap of foam (holds golf tees to dry)
  - Paper plate
  - Medium paintbrush
  - Paper towels
  - Container of water
  - Ziploc bag (to hold cake and tees)

## ART

GRADE LEVEL **EARLY CHILDHOOD – PRE K**

**COMPLETION TIME**

- 30 minutes



## OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- How to recognize colors and match them
- Working cooperatively with others
- Use of fine motor skills and afterwards, play

## STANDARDS

- Students perceive and respond to objects in the environment
- Discuss visual and tactile perceptions – what is seen and how objects feel
- Identify colors by name
- Name and describe objects by color and relative size

## TEACHER PREPARATION

*Note: Read through all instructions first. Decide how many cakes the class will make and how to divide up the activities: Pressing beads into cake layers, gluing together the layers, attaching flowers, and inserting golf tees. Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when in a hurry to help students. Be sure glue has cooled before returning project to students (takes a minute or so.) It is also recommended that you make one cake first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare.*

**[1]** If you want to have the look of the pony beads being evenly distributed on the side of the cake, you'll need to mark the sides of the foam discs with pencil. If it doesn't matter to you, students can randomly place beads.

To mark sides, insert a pencil into the side about 1/4" down from the top, to make a small (about 1/4" deep) indentation/mark. Then, 1" away, mark about 1/4" up from the bottom. Continue marking all around side, every 1", alternating top and bottom.

**[2]** If you decide to paint golf tees, lightly sand them with fine sandpaper (to rough up the smooth finish so that the paint won't easily scratch off). Acrylic paint is water based so it cleans up with water, but when it dries, it's permanent (and won't come off of clothes).

After sanding, wipe off golf tee to remove dust. Then squeeze small circle of paint onto paper plate and paint pointed bottom of tee while holding the top. Insert top of tee into scrap of foam to hold until dry. Then hold bottom of tee to paint the top and insert bottom into foam so that top can dry. Repeat for all golf tees, washing and drying brush in water and on paper towel between colors.

**[3]** Use paper punch to make holes in centers of flower stickers.

**[4]** Prepare work area by setting up clear containers of beads, paper plate (to hold beads while working) and three foam discs per cake being made. (Wait to set out flowers and golf tees.)



[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]



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# INSTRUCTIONS

**[1]** Show students that there are three layers to this pretend cake, that can be decorated with pretend sprinkle candies, that are really plastic beads and cannot be eaten. Discuss how you want them to work together in groups.

Demonstrate how to choose the colors they'd like by picking up a few beads from the containers and setting them on the plate so that they don't roll onto the floor. If you have a particular way you'd like the colors selected, describe that now, such as creating a "pattern" from 2, 3 or 4 colors by alternating them. If not, perhaps you can suggest that they try to use lots of color to show "variety". Mention that they are making a "design" on the sides.

**[2]** Show students that the holes in the beads should show – that they press on the holes to push in the beads, not the sides of the beads. (You may want to insert a bead side-ways so they see the difference.)

Demonstrate how to start pushing a bead into the mark on the side of the foam disc with their thumb and forefinger - and then how to continue pushing with their finger. Explain that once a bead goes into the foam that it shouldn't be taken out – that if it needs to be removed, that you will help them do that and replace the bead (giving you a chance to use the glue gun as explained in the TIPS).

Have students insert beads, taking turns as you direct.

**[3]** Help the students plan how the three layers should be stacked. Demonstrate how to apply a generous amount of glue stick to the top of the bottom layer and set middle layer on top. Similarly apply glue stick to the top of the middle layer and set top layer

on top. Remind students that they should not apply glue to the top layer at all. Have students assemble cake.



**[4]** Distribute flower stickers and demonstrate how to remove a paper liner. Have students attach four flower stickers to the top of the cake.



**[5]** Show students golf tees, explaining that they are pretend candles. Explain that you'll put them into the cake this first time (so that you can determine how far to press them in). Then they may take them in and out but shouldn't push them too far into the cake, because candles stick up from the cake.



**[6]** Allow students to play with the cake. Give them the Ziploc bag, asking them to put the cake and all four tees into the bag, after they're finished.

## MODIFICATIONS

### To simplify project:

- Have one helper per two students.
- Put a single row of beads around the edge.
- Make only one layer to the cake by using one disc that can be decorated.

### To expand project:

- Use larger discs and decorate top and bottom layers with primary colored beads, and middle layer with secondary colors, to help explain color mixing. Coordinate flower and golf tees with same colors.

### For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side with older students creating a more complex pattern of bead colors on the plate, while the younger students push them into the foam.
- Have older students make a coordinating "Happy Birthday" sign, lightly drawn onto a 1" thick block of foam with beads pressed down into it. Use different colors for each letter.

## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Make individual cupcakes using foam balls glued into cupcake papers. Attach flower and insert golf tee in center. Then cover top of ball with beads pushed down into foam to look like sprinkles.
- Use for a speaking and listening project – the birthday students can hold the cake and tell about their birthdays.
- Depending on the age of the students, change the number of flowers/tees on top to reflect the correct age at which the birthdays are being celebrated.
- Have students help you come up with other games using golf tees - saying color names, matching, counting, etc.



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## TIPS

- If you decide to make a lot of cakes and need to paint a lot of golf tees, you can spray paint instead of hand paint. Sand the tees and then insert the tops down into foam, about 2" apart. Spray in a well-ventilated, newspaper-covered area (inside a large box or outside). Let dry. Then remove and re-insert them with points into the foam. Spray tops and let dry.
- If any beads need to be removed, use toothpick to pick them out. Then add a dot of hot glue or thick craft glue to new bead and insert into hole. (New beads stay in well, but if any are removed, the replacements may fall out.)

## REFERENCES

*What Makes a Rainbow* by Betty Ann Schwartz  
*Color Dance* by Ann Jonas  
*Book of Colors* by Jenny Loveless  
*Colors! Colors!* by Eric Carle