

Make an ant

You will need: 2 wooden teaspoons, paint (or felt tip pens), paintbrush (optional), 5-7 pipe cleaners, scissors, glue dots or PVA glue, wiggle eyes.

Instructions:

1. Paint the back of each of the two wooden teaspoons. Leave to dry. If you prefer, you can use felt tip pens instead of paint.
2. Place one teaspoon on top of another (painted side up) so that there is a bowl (head) of a spoon is at each end. Hold in place.
3. With a pipe cleaner, wind around the joined handles of the spoons. Use additional pipe cleaners to cover the handles and one of the bowls (heads) of a spoon. You might like to add shape to the ant's body by winding a pipe cleaner over and over again in the same small area.
4. Cut two pipe cleaners in half to make four lengths. With three of these lengths, you are going to make the six legs of the ant by twisting one length in the middle around the body of the ant; this should make two legs. Bend each leg so it looks more realistic. Repeat with the other two lengths so you have six legs when you have finished.
5. With the remaining length, cut it half again and bend one length to make a pair of antennae. Glue on the head of the ant (the spoon bowl/head not covered with pipe cleaner).
6. Glue the wiggle eyes on the head of the ant. Leave to dry (if necessary).
7. Your ant is complete! Why not make up an adventure for your ant.

Fun facts: There are thousands of ant species in the world, but only about 50 in the UK. One of the most common species here is the red wood ant (which we modelled this ant on). They often build large mounds from pine needles and other woodland litter on the edge of wooded areas, and there can be 100,000 or more ants in a colony!

