

How to make a Hungry Caterpillar costume for World Book Day

YOU CAN MAKE THIS LOVELY CHILDREN'S COSTUME USING OLD FLEECES AND AN OLD T-SHIRT.

FAMILY CRAFTS

2

YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ An old green T-shirt to fit your child
- ✓ Old fleeces in greens, browns, and reds (you may be able to find these in local charity shops, or if necessary you can buy fleece by the metre)
- ✓ A length of plastic coated garden wire
- ✓ Pattern pieces (available at the end of these instructions)
- ✓ Sewing kit
- ✓ Matching thread
- ✓ Sewing machine.

DIFFICULTY

INTERMEDIATE

NOTE

We hope that you find the tips and suggestions in these guides helpful and fun to follow. Please note that no guarantees are given that any particular results will be achieved when following our guides. We recommend that you avoid using highly flammable materials and if the product is intended for use by a child that particular care is taken with small parts. The products shown in our guides are not intended for use by children under the age of three.

METHOD

1

Ask your child to put on the green T-shirt. Using a tape measure, measure from the underarm to where you want the first stripe to start and take a note of this measurement for the next step.



2

With the T-shirt placed flat on a table, measure from the underarm down to where the first stripe will start then add on a 1cm seam allowance. Cut along the line.



3

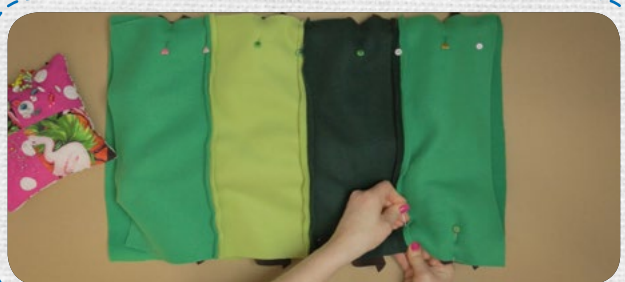
Use the bottom of the T-shirt to create a template for your stripes. Add a 1cm seam allowance to both the top and bottom. Cut this template open so it is easier to trace from.



REMEMBER
Remember not to put any scraps of fabric in the bin - any offcuts that can't be used should be taken to a textiles bank

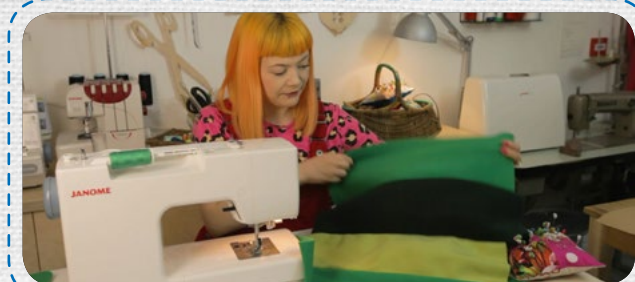
4

Cut strips of fleece to make the stripes, ensuring they are the wider than the T-shirt width. You will need a total of eight (four on the front, and four on the back) but you can do more or less stripes if you want to.



5

Pin the fluffier sides (right sides) of two stripes together on a long edge and stitch together.



6

Stitch on more stripes. Note: you will need to create two separate panels of four stripes each. These will be the front and back of the costume.



-- TO MAKE THE CATERPILLAR LEGS --

7

Pin the leg template to a double layer of fabric (right sides together) then cut out. Repeat for each leg. We made 8 legs for our caterpillar (16 pieces of fabric).

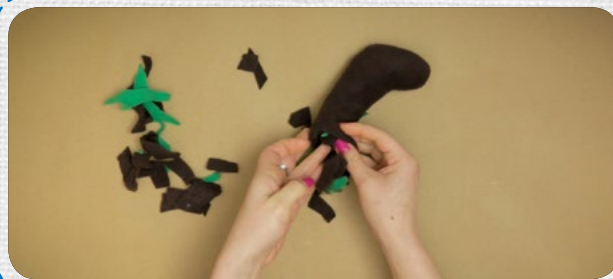


8

Sew two leg pieces together (place them right sides together). Start and finish at the flat edge but don't sew this edge together.

9

Turn each leg right side out, so the seam is on the inside. Stuff with small scraps of fabric (you could even use some old socks!).



10

Fold the T-shirt in half and measure the width of the bottom edge. Add 1cm for your seam allowance. Make a note of this.





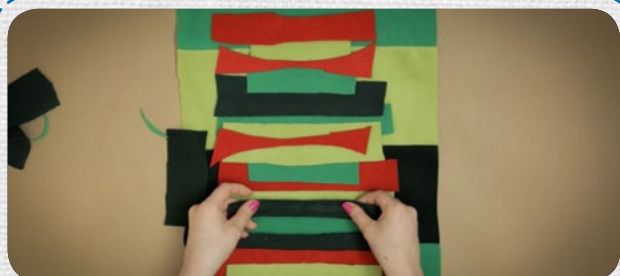
11

Fold the striped panels in half. Measure to your noted length. Pin and cut out.



12

Use fabric scraps/offcuts etc to create a tassel for the back of the caterpillar.



13

Place the back panel on a flat surface, right side up. Position the tassels in place and secure with pins. Stitch a line up the centre back. Note: you can cut in to the tassels to make them thinner if you wish.

14

Place the caterpillar back section on a flat surface, right side up and position the legs on it (facing inwards). Carefully lay the front panel on top, ensuring right sides are together and matching the seams.

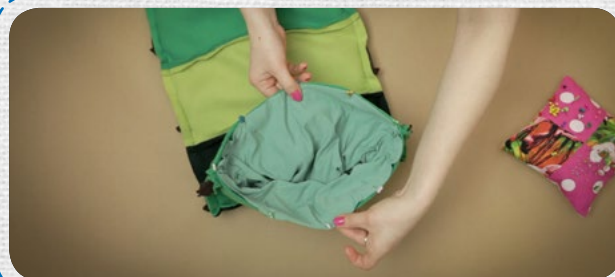


15

Pin through each seam and each leg, then sew the two sides together, making sure to catch all of the layers.

16

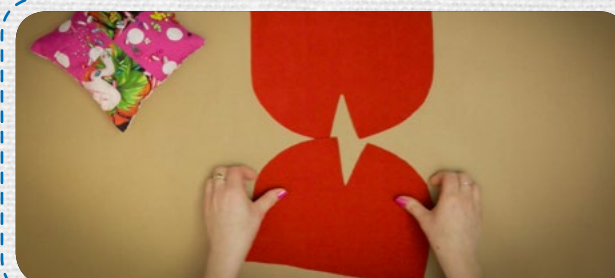
With the caterpillar costume turned inside out, place the right side of the T-shirt to the right side of the costume part, matching side seams and back and front (the T-shirt will slot inside). Pin together, easing in where necessary. Stitch together. Turn the caterpillar right side out.



-- TO MAKE THE CATERPILLAR HAT --

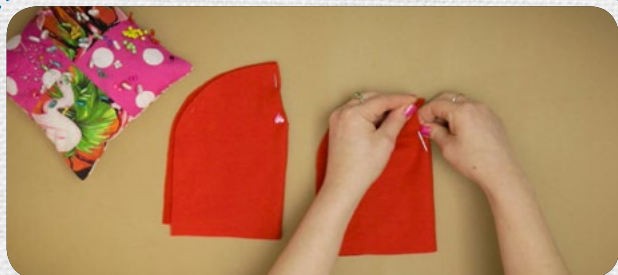
17

Pin the hat template to a double layer of red fleece. Carefully cut it out, including the darts.



18

Unpin the template and separate the two hat pieces. Pin the darts closed (these are going to give the hat shape). Stitch the darts on the wrong side of the fabric on the two separate hat pieces.



-- FOR THE EYES AND ANTENNAE --

19

Pin the eye template to a double layer of suitably coloured fabric (we used yellow). Cut two eyes and cut two inner eye pieces from a contrasting fabric (we used green).



20

Pin the antenna template to a double layer of fabric (right sides together) – we used green fabric. Cut out. Repeat this step to make two separate antennae.



21

Place the eye pieces in position on one side of your hat – make sure it is right side out.



22

Pin each eye in place and stitch down along the outer edge of the inner eye.

23

Place two antenna pieces right sides together, then stitch around, leaving the flat end open. Repeat for the second antenna.



24

Trim any excess fabric away from the seams.

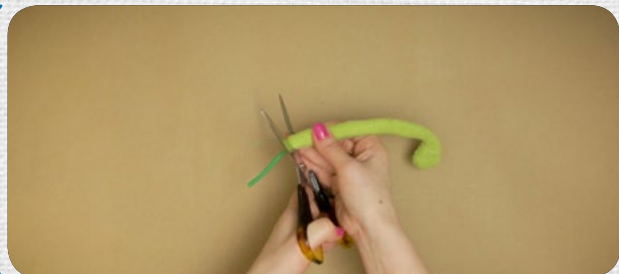
25

Using a chopstick or pencil, turn each antenna right side out.



26

Take a length of garden wire and feed it into each antenna to give shape. Trim any excess away with sturdy scissors (not your best sewing ones!).



27

Sandwich the two antennae between the two hat layers: Place the front hat panel on a flat surface with the eye side facing up. Place the antenna on top of this – facing inwards. Lay the second hat panel on top, right side down (make sure the base of each antenna pokes out slightly).



28

Pin the hat together and then stitch the seam. Tip: when you are ready to sew over the wire in the antennae, turn the sewing machine wheel by hand so that your needle goes over the wire and you don't break the needle. Turn the hat the right way out.



PATTERN PIECES



Scale these shapes to suit your measurements.