
Summer Teepee with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, and welcome to Camp Creativebug. All summer long, we're gonna be serving up classes that are kid friendly. I'm gonna show you how to make this really cute indoor/outdoor teepee using a drop cloth and some basic household items. This will get you ready for any summer activity, whether it be reading outside on the lawn, or a sleepover under a starry sky.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- What's great about this teepee is you can make it really simple or more involved depending on how much time you have to create your teepee. Let's go over the materials that you'll need to start with and then we'll talk about some other options. So to create your structure, first you'll need six, six-foot, bamboo poles. I like to use around six, you could add five or seven, and six feet high will give you sort of a finished teepee that's around four and a half or five feet tall from the ground. You could go taller or shorter, depending on how big the kids are that are gonna sit inside of your teepee. You could also use PVC pipe or something else, but the bamboo is lightweight and has a really natural look, which I like. So you'll need six of those guys. And then the structure will be made out of canvas drop cloth, which you can get at the hardware store. I really like using this because it's inexpensive and has a heavier body to it. For the teepee itself, we're going to use a six foot by nine foot cloth, and if you want to make a floor cloth, which is optional, to sit inside your teepee, then you'll need an extra scrap. We're using a four foot by five foot for the floor cloth. You'll also need some rope. It can really be any kind of rope. I chose this sisal roping because I like the look of it. I'm not gonna need quite this much, maybe ten yards or so. You can also get this at a hardware store. You'll need some basic measuring and marking tools. I've got a tape measure, a pencil, when I'm working with kids especially. And then scissors, rubber bands, and clothes pins are going to be handy during some of our construction that can get a little precarious. You'll also need a scrap of cardboard, a couple of nails, and an X-ACTO knife. I'm gonna show you how to make this little stabilizer for the structure. If you're working with kids this entire time, you could sub out scissors instead of an X-ACTO knife. You'll also need a large-eyed needle and some lacing for the top of your teepee. This is just a suede cord. We're going to create some potato stamps to stamp our teepee with, and this is a really fun thing to do with kids. These are super large, they fit in their hands and they're easy to cut lots of different shapes. So a couple of Russet potatoes, you'll of course need a paring knife to carve out your shapes. A few paper plates, and a little scrap of felt or two will help you get really even painting for the stamping. If you're going to make a floor cloth, you'll need a brush as well. You can use craft paint if you already have it at the house, but I actually like to use these samples of house paint. You can get them in sort of any color for really inexpensively and they're a little bit thicker and more opaque, sort of a printing ink. So they work really well with the potato stamps. I've just got them in this sort of a fun, summery color palette. I've got a teal, a dark orange, sort of a navy, and a mustard yellow. The last little thing that you'll need are some sort of craft supplies that you might already have lying around the house. I have a few scraps of yarn, to add little embellishment on to my bamboo poles. Felt scraps, these are really fun to cut feathers out of or you could do little moons and stars, and then a pom-pom garland.

Everybody needs one of these. And I already strung mine together, this is something that you could do at home while watching a movie. And these are just to add some little, fun, pops of color to your teepee once it's finished.

Chapter 3 - Build and Customize Teepee

Prep to create structure

- Putting together your teepee structure is a little bit like wrangling a bunch of baby giraffes. These guys can get kind of wobbly, so I'm going to show you a couple of things that are going to help you in creating that initial structure. The first is creating this sort of cardboard wheel that's going to keep your poles in place when you start to compose it together. So we're going to start with that before we get into putting these guys upright into our teepee shape. I've just got a scrap of cardboard here, and I've created about a six inch circle. I just traced a plate that I had in my kitchen. This could be a little bit bigger, a little bit smaller, but somewhere between five and seven inches is probably good. And we're going to put a pole sort of in each little segment, and you can eyeball this, or you can sort of draw it out. I'm going to start by drawing a big X in the middle of my circle. And I've got six poles, so I'm going to kind of divide this into six segments, but I'm going to leave a larger opening here, because this is going to be the front of my teepee. So I don't want poles in that. So just divide those in half. And then I'm going to kind of create holes in these spaces. This doesn't have to be exact. It's just sort of rough, and this is just scrap cardboard, so you can do this again if it doesn't work for however you set up your teepee. Using a nail, we're going to poke holes in here. You could, you know, almost use anything that's got the sharp tip, but this isn't that dangerous. It's really big, and kids can even help you with this if they're not too little. Be careful not to stick your hand under where you're going to make that hole. So I'm just kind of holding my cardboard up. Punching and wiggling these holes. It's like a pizza. That was just a mark in my cardboard. And I want to cut this out. I can use my X-acto knife, or I can even use a pair of scissors. So this is very rough, that's fine. And then, I want to cut slits up to these circles. Not on these lines, but just up into these circles. Because this is where my bamboo pole is going to go. So I'm just going to cut right through that. Now you are going to see this in the finished teepee, so if you want to draw a little pattern on the back, you can just give your kids some markers to draw on the cardboard. But you don't have to use it. It does add some extra support and structure at the top of the teepee. So once I have this, I'm going to take this guy, a few rubber bands. I've pre-cut about 15 feet of my rope. And I'm going to take that with my bamboo poles to wherever I want to set up my teepee, so if that's your living room or your backyard, grab all your materials, and we're ready to start setting up that structure.

Set up bamboo poles

- Starting with three poles, you're gonna begin your structure. Think of this like a tripod. You need your legs kicked out at different angles crossing. Then you're gonna add one pole at a time. If you can get someone else to help you with this, that works too. Otherwise you can hold things together with rubber bands as you go. If you were gonna make a little miniature tepee for maybe a doll you could use this same method with dowels and rubber bands instead of rope and bamboo poles. I'm just continuing to adjust. The bottom of my tepee, remember, is like a circle. So I'm moving these legs out until I have an arrangement that looks good, that feels okay. Last pole. Holding this in place with one hand, I've got about 15 feet of rope pre-bundled so I can manage it. I want to start with a knot to keep this loosely in place. This is tricky. It's like baby giraffes. But we're gonna adjust this as

we go, so if it starts to fall apart a little don't worry about it. Just get a knot on there going so that you can really start to weave the rope underneath and around these poles. Holding the end of my rope over here on one end, I've got a knot loosely around these poles, and I'm gonna start weaving with this length of rope. Things are gonna shift around, but you're gonna tighten it up in a minute. You really just have to get something going to start. I've got a twist in my rope. Get that first loop as snug as you can. If you have a tangle, like I have a bit of a tangle here, I'm gonna nudge that under. If your rope is coiled you may get a few of those little tangles but just tighten it up. Now I can start going over and under. At this point I can let go of that tail I was holding onto. I'm gonna arrange these a little more being mindful of that circle. Good, okay. Under, over. Can go on top too. Continue adjusting your poles. Then once I'm about halfway through my rope I'll tie a second knot with that tail. This looks a bit messy but this is a little tepee and there's no right or wrong way to do this. You could even add little bits of things in here of other colored ropes to really make it look sort of like a nest up there. Put a little bird up there. I've got still, I don't know, about six feet left. I'm gonna use this to make it a little cleaner. I've tied that knot and I'm gonna go around. I'm not really weaving at this point. I'm just tightening things up here. With these two tails, the end of my rope and that tail I left, I'm gonna tie another knot. If they're really long you can find another place to tie another knot to just until they're all woven in. Think of it like your knitting project. You're weaving in your ends. Just double-knot that last little section. Here you can still arrange. I mean, these are still flexible, so if you need to move something over a little, this guy looks like he's leaning toward me a bit, so I want to extend these poles closest to me. Then remember that little stabilizer we created with cardboard? This is another way to create more structure if this still feels a little loose to you. I'm gonna loosen this up. I think looking at this that my opening is gonna be on the side facing me. So remember our little stabilizer here had this irregular opening on the side, that's gonna be facing me. Those holes I created, I'm gonna pop those into the bamboo poles. This is not delicate. You're really gonna make this work for you. If you need to make some of the openings larger to accommodate your poles because they're thicker, that's fine. If all your poles are in place, whether or not your using the little cardboard stabilizer, and everything looks good, you're ready to cut out your tepee covering out of the drop cloth and start assembling this.

Cut out tent and floor cloth

- I have my friend Graham helping me build the rest of my teepee. Are you ready to build a teepee?
- Yes. - And we have our drop cloth laid out in front of us. Remember we're making a teepee that's around four and a half feet tall as far as the canvas goes so we need to be working on something that's twice as wide. So in this case, this drop cloth is nine feet wide. And I've got one end of it here and the rest of it is going off my table. And our first step is to fold this in half. Can you help me fold this in half? Can you grab this end? There we go, perfect. Oh, good job. Get those corners lined up and just fluff this out a little. Alright. So just like cutting out a pattern piece you wanna make sure this is fairly aligned. I know this is fairly large, but-- working from the folded edge, we're gonna measure out four and half from one end all the way to the other. So we're making sort of like this quarter circle that we're gonna cut out to create our teepee shape. So first we have to measure four and a half feet. So you take the end with one and can you line it up there at the fold? And right to the end is four and a half feet so that's 53 inches about. Sometimes these drop cloths are a little off by an inch or two. And we're gonna use this to mark so, Graham's gonna keep that right at the corner and I'm gonna move mine to make little dots to create this arch that we're gonna cut out. So you're good at the corner? Great. So we know that first edge is right here on the edge. Oh, gotta

hold that one tight. Use your thumb just to press it down. There you go. And I'm just working, remember my drop cloth is folded, and I'm making these marks all the way along. I'm working on a table, but you could do this on the floor or outside in the driveway. I'm gonna need to move this closer to me to make all these marks so pinch that tight and I'll kind of twist this guy. You're basically creating your own giant compass. I mean, that's what we're doing, just creating this arch by having this as our pivot point and me measuring on this side. Adjust the fabric as you go. Alright, let's move that that way. Can you reach that? - Mhmm. - Close? Still holding it tight? - Mhmm. - And then, when we wind up on the fold, we'll be done. We can let go of this guy. If you want to connect those marks you made with really a loose pencil line you can or you can just sort of cut from one to the next one. So I'm cutting both layers at the same time 'cause remember it's folded. And just adjust, like you did with your markings. Make those pencil marks. And cut all the way to that fold. You can fold this up and make a little flag or a pair of bunting or something with these scraps. But the teepee shape is done. You'll see that it becomes a half circle when we open it up. I'm gonna set it aside cause I want to cut my floor cloth at the same time. And remember this drop cloth was four feet by five feet. I want to make it a square, a four by four foot square. And the reason I chose four feet by four feet is because that's roughly the diameter of the bottom of my teepee, is around four feet. So if I fold from one corner to the next. Graham, do you know that trick, how to find a square? Have you done that in class? So if you had something like a sheet of paper that's a rectangle and you took one corner and folded it up. - oh, yeah. - You remember that? So then we know we have to cut right on this line to make a square. - We're gonna cut it? - We are, we are gonna cut it. So this will make our square, right on this line. Sometimes you can just run your scissors along here, right to the end. So that makes a square, right? Like a big triangle. Graham and I have a trick, instead of doing all that marking like we did earlier, we're just gonna fold corner to corner, kind of like origami again, and then corner to corner again, that's on the long side, and then I'm just gonna cut right along here. And instead of getting this perfect circle I'm gonna get this cool sort of octagon sort of shape. We're cutting through a lot of layers here so the sharper the scissors the better. These guys are a little dull. Do you wanna hold-- tug on that that'll help it. There you go. Oh yeah, that helps. Uh, snip. And once you open this up you'll have sort of this soft octagonal shape that can be the bottom of your teepee. So we have both pieces that we need cut, but we want to test them out on our structure to make sure everything's gonna fit together nicely. We'll leave our floor cloth for the end cause we want to paint that. And let's test out our tee pee don't you think? - Mhmm. - Okay.

Drape and lace teepee tent

- Your teepee covering goes on sort of like a cloak. With those straight sides are going to become our front panel. And you wanna make sure that your teepee is secure. If your little cardboard piece comes out, then that means the structure is OK and we don't need it. We've got this extra pieces in the front here to create our printed flaps for the opening. And this is where your clothespins can come in handy. We're gonna create some lacing here, but as your sort of settling everything on to the structure, you may wanna clothespin it in place. Graham, do you have some clothespins I can use? - Yeah. Three? - Perfect. Start with one. And I usually clothespin sort of at the part where you first get that tension here. And then maybe one more? Cool. Do you have that needle? - Yeah. - Oh, perfect. Thank you. So I have my large eye-needle laced with my suede cord. This could be any color. You could even use a shoelace. And we're just gonna use this to create a little lacing here. So from front to back. This is thick, so you gotta tug it open here. Right across that opening. And then we'll go through here and straight across the opening again. Remember, at the eye of the needle,

you've got two length of cord so you really have to muscle that through. There we go. Back in. You can add more lacing if you like, but this is decorative as well as functional. It's gonna kind of cinch the top of this teepee together. Do you wanna hold on to these? - Yeah. - We are done with our clothespins. And then do you wanna help me mark some spots for us to do our printing? - Yeah, yeah, yeah. - And do you have that pencil? - Yeah. - OK. (laughs) So where's our printing on our other teepee? Does it look like it's at the bottom or at the top? - Middle and top. - The middle and top. So Graham is saying that we need to make some printing on our teepee front panels here, but we know where those are, so we don't need to mark it. But we can go ahead and mark the top. Do you wanna help me mark? - Yeah. - We're gonna make our line right here. And then do you wanna make a line there? - Yes. - Great. It's OK, we'll just move that back in place. Good job. And then can you reach on that panel and make a line there too? Can you make a mark right here? - Yeah. - Oh, there we go. And then this panel here. Good. And then let's just draw down this to remember where our panels are. Just really lightly. Oh yeah, good. All the way down. Perfect, keep goin'. (Graham hums) - If you have to bend down, you can. And let's do it on this side too. Along that pole. All the way down. Perfect. All the way down. Perfect. Alright and we can unleash this and take it to our table to start our stamping. - Mom! I'll have to do that all over again.

Chapter 4 - Decorate and Play

Stamp teepee tent

^- You can decorate your teepee in lots of ways, ^if you're working with a printed canvass that's fine, ^but what I love about using a bank drop cloth ^is that we can customize it with our potato stamps, ^right? ^- Yeah. ^- Great. ^So I've got a couple of russet potato stamps here, ^I've cut this one in half. ^Do you like these potatoes? ^Do you like potatoes, Graham? ^- No. ^- I like French fries. - No, he doesn't like, ^he likes French fries. ^But I think he'll like stamping with them. ^And I've got the two colors ^that we're gonna use on our teepee, ^the teal and the dark orange. ^Orange like your shirt, sort of, right? ^- Mm, not right. ^- "Not quite" he says. ^And we're also gonna use two paper plates ^and a little bit of felt to make stamp pads with. ^So how 'bout a triangle, does that sound okay to stamp with? ^- Yeah. - Alright. ^- [Graham] Triangle. ^- [Woman] So, I'm going to cut the triangle shape. ^I'm gonna just sort of cut into the potato ^to create my triangle shape ^to figure out where it's gonna be ^and then I can carve away the stamp. ^Does that look like a triangle? ^- Yeah, yeah. - Sort of like a tee-pee, too? ^- [Graham] Almost, like a pizza. ^- [Woman] Like a pizza slice, that's right. ^- [Graham] Pizza. ^Potato stamp. ^Trianglo. ^- [Woman] That's right. ^So a triangle? ^- [Graham] Cool. ^- [Woman] Put that there for a minute ^before we're ready to use it. ^And then we're gonna make another thing ^sort of like a line, so I'll score it. ^Then I'll cut away. ^Have you ever peeled potatoes before, Graham? ^- [Graham] No. ^- [Woman] I think it's more fun to make them into stamps. ^- [Graham] Am I gonna help make them into stamps? ^- [Woman] You're gonna use them as stamps. ^How about that? ^- [Graham] I wanna help make. ^- [Woman] Maybe when you're a little older. ^- [Graham] When I'm seven and a half? ^- [Woman] Perhaps. ^Does that look sort of like a line? ^- [Graham] Um. ^- [Woman] Like an equal sign, part of an equal sign? ^- Looks like you cut in an apple. ^- I does look like that, you're right. ^It does look like a cut apple. ^- But it doesn't taste like one. ^- It doesn't taste like one. ^So we wanna make our stamp pads, ^and I'll just pour a little bit of paint ^into the center. ^You'll see, this is a really nifty trick. ^We'll do the same thing here. ^Remember this is our teepee that we're actually stamping on, ^so we don't wanna spill any paint on it if we can help it. ^We're each gonna take our stamp pad. ^I wanna show you how the stamp pad works, okay? ^This maybe is not like a stamp pad you've seen

before. ^- I want the triangle. ^- With the triangle. ^And what happens is, ^as you start stamping, the felt will help, ^sort of keep an even coating on this. ^So it's not super slick. ^The felt sort of acts as a barrier ^to absorb the paint as we go. ^Okay, so let's test this stamp once. ^We're gonna test it on the paper. ^In that hand. ^Wait, you're left handed. ^Should we use your left hand? ^Perfect. ^Then, can you reach over there and stamp it? ^See how that looks. ^Okay, lift up. ^Fabulous, that's a great triangle! ^Try one more time? ^Oh. ^That's cool. ^I like that overlapping. ^So do you remember those marks that we made here? ^Do you remember those marks? ^- [Graham] Yeah. ^- So if we can't remember exactly, ^this is the line that we drew. ^This is the front of our teepee. ^This arch is the part that we wanna stamp our design ^for the top of the teepee. ^So, Graham, should we stamp with the potato ^along this line? ^- Yeah, yes. ^- And then should I stamp with mine ^and we'll meet in the middle? ^- Yeah. ^- Okay. ^Remember, you're gonna wanna re-ink your stamp ^every time you make a stamp on the fabric. ^So, if I make one stamp. ^Yeah you could do it that way. ^Perfect! ^Now we gotta get more ink. ^Those look great, Graham. ^*(potato stamps thud)* ^It's like we're making a song. ^You can fit one more there. ^- [Graham] Yeah. ^- Perfect! ^Um, that looks really good. ^Should we swap? ^- Yeah. ^- You wanna try the orange? ^- Yep. ^- Alright, so you wanna do your orange on this side? ^And I'll do my blue on this side? ^- [Graham] Yeah. ^- [Woman] Okay, sounds good. ^*(potato stamps thud)* ^Can you reach that side? ^Should we do one more? ^- [Graham] Uh huh. ^- [Woman] Me do one more? ^Okay. ^Awesome. ^Should we do one on the inside? ^- [Graham] Yeah. ^- [Woman] Swap again? ^- [Graham] No. ^- No? ^Go for a little asymmetrical design. ^Oh that looks good. ^*(potato stamps thud)* ^I like how you're going in between your other marks. ^*(potato stamps thud)* ^This is the front of our teepee. ^Should we stamp that too? ^- Yeah. ^- Okay, so swap again? ^- Yeah. ^- Alright, do you have an idea for how we're gonna stamp? ^Where do you want me to start and where do you wanna start? ^- I wanna start here. ^- Okay. ^So the front- ^- I'm gonna put them upside down. ^- Okay, so the front is from this line coming toward you. ^Okay, so that's the panel that we have to stamp. ^- From here to here? ^- Yep. ^So you start and then I'll follow. ^*(potato stamps thud)* ^- [Graham] Now are we at the starting point ^where we have to go down? ^- [Woman] Mmm, let's move it a little. ^So you can reach that. ^Let's go all the way to the bottom of our teepee. ^*(potato stamps thud)* ^- There. ^- I gotta catch up. ^Should I do one more? ^- Yep. ^- Alright, so we can leave this blank ^or we could do maybe three little stamps in the center. ^What do you think? ^What if I do that? ^Where would you put your stamp? ^- On top. ^- Oh I like that. ^Do we need one more or not yet? ^- [Graham] One more. ^- [Woman] One more here? ^- [Graham] Yep. ^- Okay. ^That's perfect. ^Let's move this so we can do our lacing holes. ^But not let our paint fall off. ^Urrr. ^Alright, do you wanna use the orange ^or you wanna use the blue? ^- Orange. ^- Orange, okay. ^Alright, so those are our holes. ^What are we gonna stamp on there? ^Oh, let's this is a thick edge ^so you might have to do it a couple times for it to stick. ^You wanna do it one more time? ^*(potato stamps thud)* ^Should I do blue over it or just leave it? ^- [Graham] Blue over. ^- Blue over? ^There we go. ^And one on this side? ^Oh, good one. ^Blue on top? ^- Mhm. ^- I like that, that motif we got going. ^Alright, so let's do the other side ^and then, if you already have your paints out, ^you can go ahead and stamp your floor cloth ^or paint your floor cloth. ^You could just use big brush strokes. ^You could draw a pattern or shape on it if you like. ^The house paint dries pretty quickly ^sort of like acrylic paint. ^And once this is dry, you're ready to set up your teepee. ^Are you ready to set it up? ^- Yep! ^- We gotta stamp this side first though. ^- Oh. ^- And then set it up? ^- Okay. ^- Okay. ^- We forgot that.

Finishing touches

- Hey, Graham, are you ready for summer? - Yes. - Do you want to help me decorate the teepee? - Yeah. - There you go. - Yeah. Yeah, puff balls. - Oh, that's a nice one. Can you help me with this one? - [Graham] Yeah. - Can you go way. - [Graham] Yeah. - Where should we have this fall? How do you think our printing was? - [Graham] Good. - You did a good job, right? I love that. What do you think you'll use your teepee for? - [Graham] Uh, sleeping. - [Woman] Sleeping? Are you going to invite a friend over? - Uh, looks too small for a friend. - [Woman] What about your little brother? Do you think he'll fit in there? - [Graham] Yeah, he's going to roll around a lot. - He's going to roll around too much? You can decorate your teepee with feathers made out of felt or pom poms or even tassels, and I hope you enjoy your teepee all summer long. Oh I got you.