

How to...



FUN FACT

Before the year 1910, backpacks were called packsacks or moneybags.

WARNING!

Ask for an adult's help with the hot glue gun.

Make animal charms for a backpack

What you need

- Scissors
- Felt scraps
- Assorted large wooden beads
- Hot glue gun
- Small buttons
- Craft paint
- Paintbrush with fine tip
- Ruler
- Thick string, like paracord (sold at craft stores)
- Carabiner (a metal loop used for keychains, sold at hardware and craft stores)

Instructions

1. Use scissors to cut out small felt shapes to go on the animal's heads. For the pig, cut out two small triangles for its ears. For the bear, cut out two rounded ears and one oval for its snout. For the dog, cut out two long ovals for the ears and one smaller oval for a tongue.
2. Pick out round beads to use for each animal's head. Use hot glue to attach their ears to the top. Then use hot glue to attach the snouts (the felt piece for the bear and small buttons for the dog and pig). Glue the dog's tongue under its button nose.
3. Next, use your paint and paintbrush to dot on eyes for each animal and a nose on top of the bear's felt snout.
4. Choose slightly larger beads for each animal's torso and paint them different colors if you'd like.
5. Measure out a piece of cord that's 17 inches long for each animal. Fold one in half and slip the folded end up through the torso bead and then through the head bead. Knot the bottom of the cord at least twice so the beads can't slide off.
6. Attach each creature to a metal loop or to the zipper pull on your backpack.

Helpful tips

- If you have a paint pen, that's an easy way to add small details like the animals' eyes and noses.
- If you don't have tiny buttons to add to the beads, simply cut extra circles out of felt instead.
- Some cord might unravel when you cut it. You can seal the cut ends of the "legs" of the animals with glue to prevent any more from unraveling.
- If you don't have a carabiner, a large paper clip is a good way to attach the animal charm to your backpack.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

HOST A GREAT GARAGE SALE

You may think of a garage sale as a good way to clean out your room or make extra money, but did you know that it can also be good for the environment? Every year, US households throw away more than 258 million tons of trash. It's estimated that about 20% of that trash is things that could have been reused or fixed up. So when you sell old toys, furniture, clothes, and other items instead of throwing them away, you help keep things out of landfills. The people who buy them also don't have to buy brand-new things. This cuts down on the fossil fuels needed to produce items and transport them to the store and your home.

