

# THE ENRICHMENT PROJECT

Badge Program

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## Explore Crafts

*Crafts can be a hobby or a way to earn extra cash. Let's explore a variety of crafts to enrich your life, share with others and to just have fun.*

## EXPLORE CRAFTS

### Steps

#### 1. Look at crafts.

See a starting list of possible crafts in the supplement *AEP\_SUPP\_Craft Possibilities.pdf*. Choose one you'd like to try from the list or discover your own by choosing from materials you like to work with, skills you have or something you've always wanted to try.

#### 2. Online research for your chosen craft.

Go to your favorite search engine and do a search for your craft. Not only may you find tutorials or workshops, chances are you'll find patterns and templates as well. Check out the following types of sites:

- Vendor / supplier sites
- Magazine / pattern publishers
- Associations or groups that feature your craft
- Pattern sites, free
- Tutorial / workshop sites
- Template sites
- Individual enthusiasts

#### 3. Traditional research for your chosen craft.

Go to the library and find out if they have books, magazines or even DVDs that can help you explore your chosen craft.

#### 4. Take a class in the craft you've chosen.

Check out local craft stores, interest groups or even online classes. Perhaps your local YMCA, library or other community area has craft programs for adults. Choose a class that appeals to you.

#### 5. Practice your new craft alone or with a group.

Most crafts are done individually. Explore ways to make your craft more of a group activity. Search for online groups as well as those that meet locally. Start out with free resources to find out if you actually enjoy the craft before looking at "for pay" groups.

#### 6. Share your new craft with family and friends.

Show what you have learned and be able to answer the following questions.

- Why did you choose it?
- Would you do it again?
- What did you like / didn't like about it?
- How can you share your experiences?

#### 7. Share your new craft with other enthusiasts and find out more information.

Here are a few ways you can share your craft. Include any others that you enjoy.

- Web (Yahoo! Groups, blogs, etc.)
- Local individuals
- Formal or informal groups
- Vendors / suppliers



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#### **8. Cultural exploration.**

Some crafts have cultural variations. Research techniques or additional information for your chosen craft.

#### **9. Historical exploration.**

In looking at the history of your craft, you may discover techniques that have been forgotten or even a different way to do your craft. Explore vintage patterns, public domain publications, craft explanations, etc. You may even find a group online who supports a historical approach to your craft.

#### **10. Creativity counts.**

Some crafts evolve as people add their own creativity. This may be as simple as new crochet stitches or as expansive as creating a new craft. Look into your craft's history and see how it has evolved. Can you add your own creativity to your craft?

#### **11. Teach others what you've learned.**

Turn this into a training session for other adults, teach kids or even family members who show an interest. By teaching your craft, you'll reinforce what you have learned as well as sharing your passion and enthusiasm for it.

#### **12. Start or help with a club for your craft.**

Sharing your craft not only expands your knowledge, you also can have fun with others sharing similar interests. Find out if there are any local craft clubs or stores in your area. If not, explore what you need to do to start your own.

#### **13. Explore Etsy.**

Explore Etsy or similar crafting marketplaces. See how others are making money from their craft. Compare how different people present the same craft through their work.

#### **14. From craft to career.**

Can you make your craft into a successful career? Writing about your craft, submitting completed projects, providing supplies or even teaching can provide either a supplemental or full income. Explore the possibilities of how you can make money from your craft.

### **Supplement**

AEP\_SUPP\_Craft Possibilities.pdf

*List of possible crafts for your exploration*

### **Sites to Explore**

[www.ehow.com/how\\_2185225\\_find-craft-websites.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2185225_find-craft-websites.html)  
[www.creativity-portal.com/howto/artsandcrafts](http://www.creativity-portal.com/howto/artsandcrafts)  
[familycrafts.about.com/od/craftstechniques101/u/findaproject.htm](http://familycrafts.about.com/od/craftstechniques101/u/findaproject.htm)  
[www.allaboutyou.com/craft/craft-ideas-kids-crafts-beginners-guides](http://www.allaboutyou.com/craft/craft-ideas-kids-crafts-beginners-guides)  
[www.squidoo.com/groups/Explore-a-new-craft](http://www.squidoo.com/groups/Explore-a-new-craft)  
[52crafts52weeks.wordpress.com](http://52crafts52weeks.wordpress.com)  
[www.favecrafts.com](http://www.favecrafts.com)  
[www.allfreecrafts.com](http://www.allfreecrafts.com)  
[craftideasweekly.com](http://craftideasweekly.com)  
[www.craftsnthings.com](http://www.craftsnthings.com)  
[www.crafterslovecrafts.com/paper-crafts.html](http://www.crafterslovecrafts.com/paper-crafts.html)  
[www.howtodothings.com/hobbies/how-to-find-craft-templates](http://www.howtodothings.com/hobbies/how-to-find-craft-templates)  
[www.brighthub.com/office/home/articles/74114.aspx](http://www.brighthub.com/office/home/articles/74114.aspx)  
[craftswap.meetup.com](http://craftswap.meetup.com)  
[www.pbs.org/craftinamerica/tv\\_series.php](http://www.pbs.org/craftinamerica/tv_series.php)  
[www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)