

Fire

It is possible to make a convincing camp fire from fairy lights, either battery powered or mains, clear tape, gels for theatre lights, sticks and a base.

For a smallish campfire use a flat wooden base about 18" across. Scrunch up the fairy lights so they are about the size of a football and loosely tape them together. Wrap them around a central core of bubble wrap to save on the amount of lights, as long as they are cool when lit. Tape the lights to the base making sure the switch or controller is accessible. Cut out random angular shapes from red, yellow and orange gels for theatre lights and tape them over the lights. You can use cellophane or sweet wrappers but the effect will be less convincing because they are not designed to transmit saturated colour. Finally attach the sticks over the gels in the form of a campfire with wire or cable ties and a glue gun. Alternatively the fire can be made using a metal firepit as a base

The fire is a great reusable prop that can be used in many contexts:

- As a focal point for a group activity e.g. a campfire in a snow storm
- To support a narrative e.g. reinforcing the idea of a witch's cauldron
- To support another activity within the session such as baking clay artefacts or cooking eggs
- In conjunction with other props and effects to reinforce the idea of 'fire' e.g. hot rocks made of fairy lights wrapped in bubble wrap
- As part of an immersive camping environment, with bubble wrap for sound and maybe marshmallows as a midnight feast
- As a cosy hearth to simply relax beside

Alternative ways of creating fire effects are with flame coloured organza, or fiery projections on white cloths and across walls. Complement with bubble wrap sounds, tambourines and drums and encourage movement with fiery streamers and rah-rahs.

Links

Exploring (Activity)

Workshops - The Last Kingdom, Macbeth, Bush Ranger, Sparks to Ashes

Videos

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