

Furious Birds

Sarah Howison

Date: Monday, February 13, 2012 3:30-5pm

Ages: 5-18

Attendees: 17 children and 4 adults

Supplies

- Skeins of yarn in red, grass green, yellow, and blue.
- Pom-pom makers (available at craft stores)
 - One set medium, one set large
- Various Popsicle sticks, plastic disposable cups, blocks, and other materials that might be used to build a pig fortress—raid your craft cabinet!
- Construction paper, scissors, and Tacky Glue (I did say raid the craft cabinet, right?)
- Googly eyes!
- One plush Angry Bird bird and one plush Angry Bird pig as door prizes.

Total cost: \$35

What the heck is a furious bird, anyway?

It's a program based on the Angry Birds game, where various angry avians launch themselves against mean (and inexplicably green) pigs to destroy their fortresses. Hugely popular among kids, teens, and this particular programmer, so it seemed like a good bet.

Process:

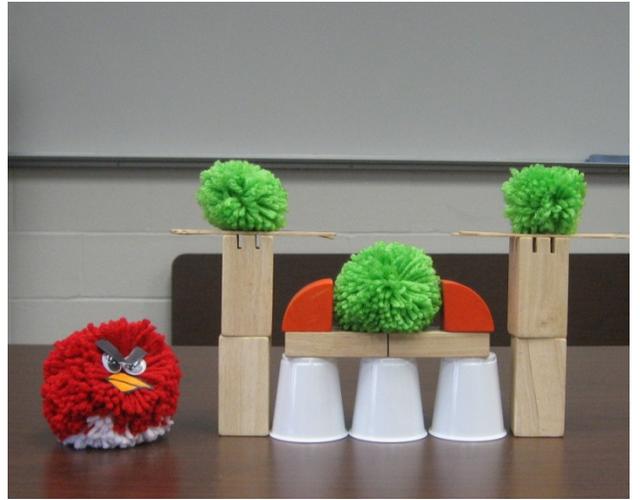
- Make the pom-poms ahead of time.
 - This is not difficult, but it's super time-consuming. The 2 ½" pom-pom maker worked best, at about 5 minutes a pom with a nice hefty result.
 - The blue birds were done with the smallest pom-pom maker (1 3/8"), and doled out as a group of three.
 - Also need a variety of piggy pom-poms in bright green—we had one giant (3 3/8") and several smaller pigs per team.
- Have kids come in and enter for the door prize right away.
- Everybody sits down and picks out a bird, then decorates it.
 - Not at all limited to "genuine" Angry Bird looks—we had Mohawks and goatees and exercise headbands on our birds.
- While the glue is drying, split into two teams and built piggy fortresses.
 - I expected a more cohesive effort, but we wound up with a number of smallish fortresses instead of one massive fort.
 - This is also a good time to put faces on the piggies! The largest piggy can have a construction-paper crown as in the game.
- When the forts are built, teams retrieve their birds and take turns trying to knock the *other* team's fortress over.
 - Surprisingly, the younger group had *much* more success than the teen group!
- Repeat the fortress-building. But first, have the teams pick up the fallen pigs/cups/blocks/birds.
 - If the teams were really lopsided last time, split into different groups to even it out.
- After the second build/attack cycle is done, draw names for the door prize. Thank everyone for coming.
- Spend the next half hour picking up yarn scraps and broken Popsicle sticks. ☺

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Our prizes at war.



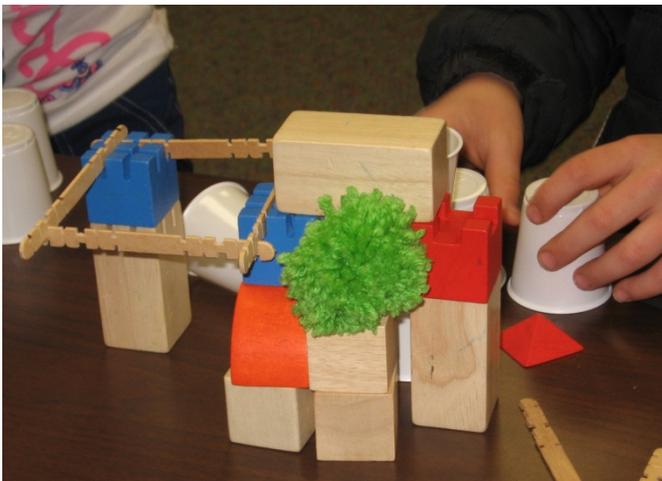
Piggies under attack!



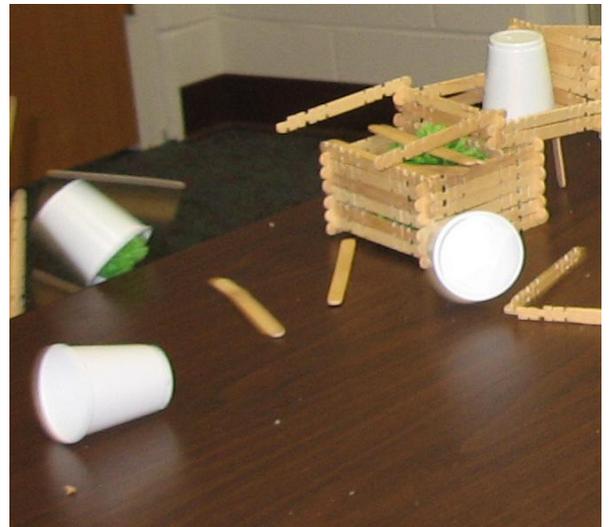
Yellow bird reporting for duty!



Blue birds ready to fly!



Rising fortress, hidden piggy.



Piggy going down!