

Sweetgum Caterpillar

When walking down the trails you are likely to see these spikey balls that fall from the sweetgum tree, they are harmless to the touch and are easy to connect to make some cute characters with your kids.

Materials Needed:

- 1. Sweetgum balls with stems (5 or 6 recommended)
- 2. Glue
- 3. Pair of googly eyes
- 4. Scissors



Step 1.

The first step is to cut the stems off of each sweetgum ball, do not throw them away though because we will be using them soon!



Step 2.

The next step is to glue the sweetgum balls together. You can do this at a slight angle on each one to make it curved. Lining the spikes into the holes can help lock them together. Make sure to save one sweetgum ball to the side.



Close-up of Sweetgum ball

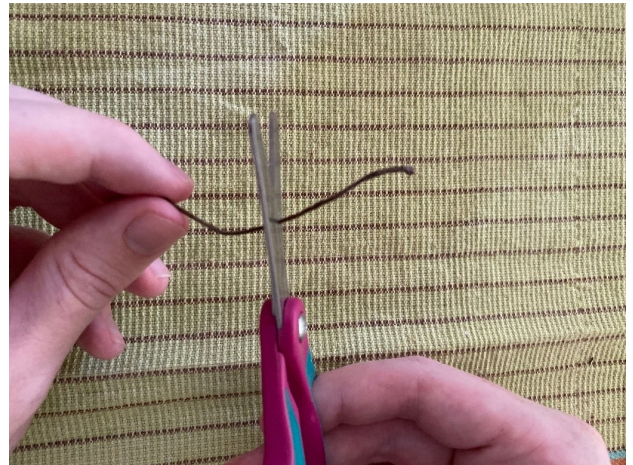


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Step 3.

Once the glue between the sweetgum balls has dried, take the last one and glue it diagonally to one of the ends. This will be our caterpillar's head! Again lining the spikes up to the holes makes it fit much more conveniently as it did with the balls of the body.



Step 5.

Dab the end of the stem in glue and then place them into opposite holes on the sweetgum ball. For the last two stem halves you have place them both facing up on the top of the "head" ball to be the caterpillar's antennae.



Step 4.

Next we will take the stems that we had set aside and cut them into two halves, these will be our caterpillar's legs.



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Step 6.

Finally - glue the two googly eye on the front of our caterpillar's head to make its face!

