



How to make a Gumnut Baby Costume



Here is an easy no-sew costume you can create from items easily picked up in the discount store. It's very easy to make, but as a word of warning this costume is made of paper. It will last about as long as it takes to parade around the school hall for a morning, and perhaps even until your child gets home from school but after that it's likely to fall to pieces. If you want to make something more permanent for the dress-up box you'd need to use fabric like felt or tulle to create your costume.

You will need:

- 2 X rolls of crepe paper in yellow
- 1 X pack of green tissue paper
- A disposable plastic bowl around the right size to fit on your child's head
- The pointy inside piece of an egg carton
- Double sided tape
- Masking tape
- Hat elastic
- A piece of ribbon for the waist of the skirt
- Green felt for the gum leaf details
- Yellow yarn for the pom poms
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- A shirt and pair of tights in a similar colour to your child's skin (I bought some pale pink ones inexpensively at kmart)
- A yellow tutu - I found ours in the costume section at the dollar store

Making the hat:

1. Glue the pointy piece of egg carton to the top of your plastic bowl. I've used a glue stick but if that won't hold use some double-sided tape.
2. Wrap the bowl with the pointy egg carton top in green tissue paper. I've wrapped mine in two sheets of paper and needed to patch an extra circle of paper over the pointy bit because it tore a little.
3. Cut two 20cm long pieces from your rolled up piece of crepe paper.
4. Gradually unravel and bunch and gather one end of the crepe paper. Attach it with pieces of masking tape to the inside of your hat - see photographs below for a better explanation.
5. Once you've made it the entire way around the inside rim of your hat with crepe paper, make a second layer.
6. Use a metal skewer heated under a flame (I used the gas flame on our stove) to easily poke a hole in each side of the hat for the elastic strap.

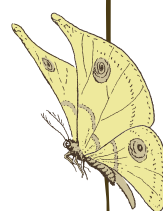
Making the skirt:

The paper skirt is placed over the top of a yellow tutu. The tutu underneath helps it to puff out like a gumnut blossom skirt. If you prefer, you could just wear the tutu on it's own but making a paper cover to go over the top matches the hat better.

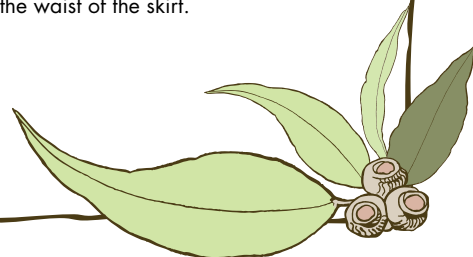
1. Unravel an entire roll of crepe paper, you might need to do this on the floor because it will be very long.
2. Unroll your roll of ribbon and lay it across the top of the crepe paper.
3. Measure the length of your tutu and place the ribbon approximately that far from the base of the crepe paper.
4. Fold the crepe paper above the ribbon over the top of the ribbon and stick it down with double sided tape. The tape should be placed just below the ribbon, so that it can be bunched and gathered like a skirt.
5. Push the paper from each end closer to the centre of the ribbon, creating a gathered effect like a tutu.
6. Measure to your child's waist, the paper can be made to fit the entire way around. Leave some ribbon on each end so you can tie it in a bow.

Making the gum leaf necklace and decorations:

1. Print out the gum leaf template and attach to two pieces of green felt with a pin.
2. Cut out the felt with the paper attached - you will be left with two leaf shapes. Cut out enough leaf shapes to have eight all together.
3. Cut two slits in the top of the leaves and thread ribbon through as per the image below to get a necklace.
4. Make two yellow pom poms using a small DIY pom pom maker (mine is approx 3cm wide).
5. Attach the pom poms to the leaves by tying them securely through the slits you have made in the tops of the leaves.
6. Hot glue a leaf and pom pom decoration onto the hat and safety pin one onto the waist of the skirt.

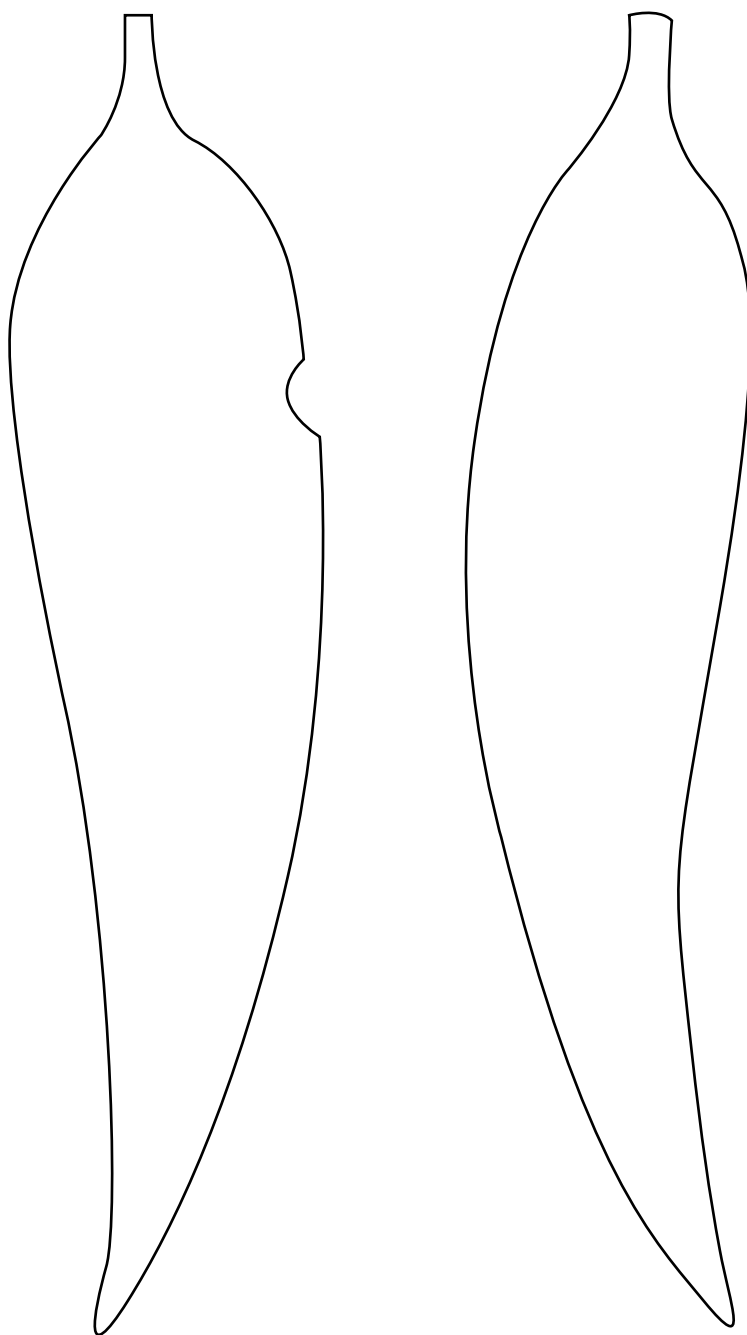


That's all there is to it!





Gum leaf template





Making the hat:



Step 1.



Step 2.



Steps 3 & 4.



Step 5.



Step 6.





Making the skirt:





Making the gum leaf necklace and decorations:

