

Designer Desserts

Debra Sweeney



Who could resist a table filled with yummy cakes, pies, and cupcakes, topped with juicy cherries, chocolate syrup, and foamy whipped cream? This was the papier-mâché project I introduced to my fifth grade class. We studied Pop artist Wayne Thiebaud's desserts as examples, focusing on shapes and forms. After brainstorming ideas, we created a template to make a papier-mâché slice of cake.

The Process

We needed to find just the right type of papier-mâché method for this project. I came up with an unusual formula of toilet paper and glue, but the students wanted to use the traditional

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method of paste and newspaper strips. We used both methods: students would apply newspaper strips over cardboard templates and then use toilet paper pulp for the icing.

After students constructed their dessert forms, I asked them to make color sketches to plan their colors, limiting the palette to only four colors each. After painting their concoctions, confetti, candles, cherry red pom-poms, and sprinkles were added while the paint was still wet.

The students learned a great deal through this mixed media experience. Not only were they able to gain a better understanding of Pop Art, but they were also able to create three-dimensional textured works of art. The finished projects were very realistic—even better than the students had envisioned. The only drawback was that we were all hungry for dessert when we finished!


When the artworks were displayed at school, all of my other students wanted to participate in a similar project, so we began making more

papier-mâché food, such as cupcakes and pizza, with students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Easy Steps to a Piece of Cake

1. Make a template out of cardboard.
2. Cover the template with a mixture of newspaper and glue.
3. When dry, add toilet tissue papier-mâché for icing and filling.
4. Make a color sketch.
5. Paint the cakes.

Recipe for Toilet Papier-Mâché

Mix two handfuls of clean shredded toilet tissue with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water and one cup of glue. Mix together until it is the consistency of oatmeal. Store papier-mâché in a closed container. 

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NATIONAL STANDARD

Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories.

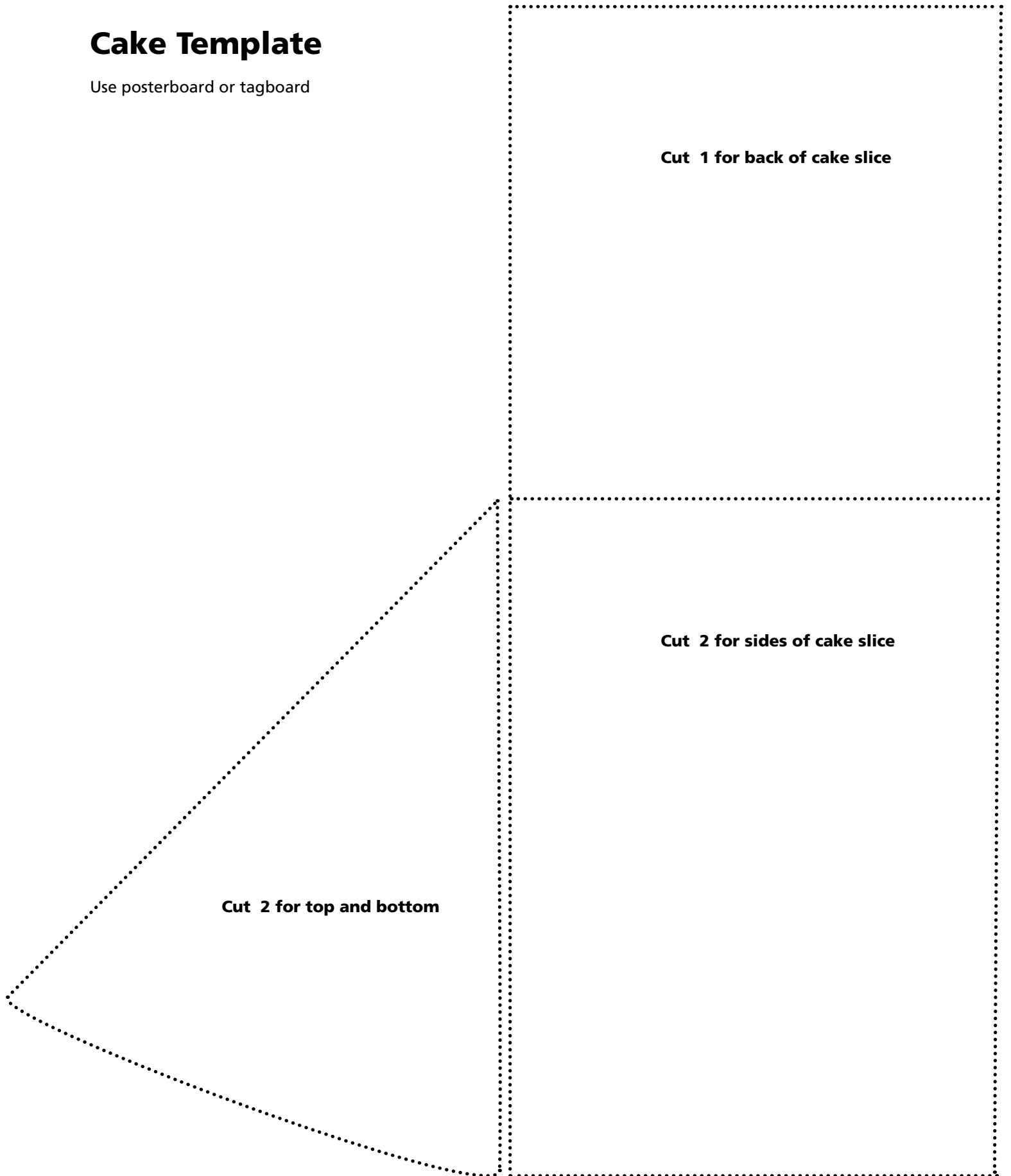
WEB LINK

www.artchive.com/artchive/T/thiebaud.html



Cake Template

Use posterboard or tagboard



Cut 1 for back of cake slice

Cut 2 for sides of cake slice

Cut 2 for top and bottom