

# Gingerbread Houses

In the end of the story, the students made a house for the gingerbread man. Have your students do the same. Wash out small milk cartons with soap and hot water and let them dry. Staple the top closed. Or for a "Back to School" theme, try adding the school bell on top for an "Old-Fashioned School House" look like this:



Make Royal Icing with:

- 3 Tablespoons meringue powder
- 1 lb. (4 cups) powdered sugar
- 6 Tablespoons warm water

Mix the ingredients together with a mixer for 8 to 10 minutes on low speed. This makes about 3 cups of icing.

Using the icing, adhere the carton to a paper plate then "glue" graham cracker squares on the sides of the carton. Use two more graham cracker squares for the roof (or make smaller roof tiles).

Let students decorate the houses with pretzels, gumdrops, chocolate chips and other candy. Challenge them to create and describe patterns.

If food allergies are an issue in your class, let students use paper squares instead of graham crackers, and decorate with non-edible decorations like buttons, sequins and yarn.

Have students look at their finished houses and list the shapes they see. What shapes are on their friends' houses? How are the houses different? The same?

Tally the number of shapes used by the class then analyze the data. Which shapes were used the most? The least?

## Skills:

- *Student will describe the location of one object relative to another (above, below, next to) and identify representations of plane geometric figures (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle).*
- *Compare the size (larger, smaller) and shape of plane geometric figures (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle).*
- *Identify, describe, and extend a repeating relationship (pattern) found in common objects.*
- *Gather data relating to familiar experiences by counting and tallying.*