

# Bonkers about conkers?

## 3 years and up

Are you bonkers for conkers? Here are some facts you may not know about them.

- Conkers are the seeds of the horse chestnut tree.
- Conkers were only introduced to Britain in the 1600s.
- The first recorded game of conkers dates back to 1848 on the Isle of Wight.
- Until conkers arrived in Britain, the game conkers was played with hazel or cob nuts or even snail shells.

If you have collected some conkers you might like doing some of the craft ideas below, but remember don't take them all, please leave some for animals to eat.

**You will need:** conkers, glue, tissue paper, googly eyes, acorn cups, marker pen, paint, pipe cleaners, sellotape

**Please make sure children are supervised if they need to make a hole in their conker.**



### Make a hedgehog

Use a marker pen to draw a face onto your conker. Then paint some prickles on the other side to make them into hedgehogs.

### Make a pencil topper

First make hole in your conker the same size as your pencil (make sure you don't go right through). Stick card or felt and draw onto your conker to make a character.



### Make a spider

Did you know conkers are said to keep spiders away?

Make a star shape out of four pipe cleaners by folding them over each other. Stick googly eyes onto your conker and use sellotape to stick the legs onto the bottom of your conker and shape to make eight legs.



### Make a conker & acorn owl

Did you know a group of owls is called a parliament?

You may need to cut a little off your conker to help it sit without falling over. Make sure you do this on the side so that the white section of your conker will form the front of your owl. Glue two acorn cups onto your conker to form the owl's eyes. Then cut out card or felt wings, beak and feet and glue these to your owl. Finally use a marker pen to draw on some eyes.



### Make a conker steamer

Make a hole in your conker, but not right through. Cut some colourful tissue paper into thin strips and twist the ends together. Put some glue into the hole in your conker and push the twisted ends of the tissue paper into the hole. Wait until the glue is completely dry.

Who can throw their conker steamer the highest?