

# WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

## September 2022: Pencil Desk Organizer

Ages 5-12

### CONNECT.

As you kick off the new school year, think about the supplies that you use most frequently during the school day. What tools do you rely on the most to succeed?

### INVESTIGATE.

#### You'll need:

- Your Pencil Desk Organizer
- Fabric
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors
- Foam board
- Ruler
- X-Acto knife\*
- Super glue
- Mesh netting

**\*Note:** If you'd like to use the X-Acto knife to cut the foam board, be sure to have an adult do it for you.

1. Begin by examining your September Pencil Desk Organizer, and brainstorm how you could use the materials above to optimize this organizer so it can hold as many supplies as possible.
2. Consider the following:
  - Could the foam board divide the shelves into smaller compartments or create additional storage?
  - Could the fabric create a pocket for larger items?
  - Could the mesh netting hold hard-to-contain materials?
3. Try to come up with storage solutions for at least three or four of your most used school supplies.

### INNOVATE.

Now begin making the changes you brainstormed above so you can use your Pencil Desk Organizer this fall!

#### You'll need:

- Your Pencil Desk Organizer
  - The materials you gathered in the **INVESTIGATE** section
  - The school supplies you hope your organizer will hold
  - Art supplies like colored markers or paints and a paintbrush
1. Arrange your school supplies in order of importance. Think about how often you use each one!
  2. Then begin to optimize your Pencil Desk Organizer for these materials, beginning with the supply you use the most.
  3. Each time you make a change to your Pencil Desk Organizer, test out how it works with your actual school supplies before you continue on to the next optimization. Taking a step back between each change may help you come up with new ideas!
  4. When your new and improved Pencil Desk Organizer is complete, decide how to use the art supplies to make your changes more visually appealing. You could, for example, paint or color the additions so they blend with the pencil theme or you could add designs to the additions to showcase your favorite subjects in school!
  5. Once your Pencil Desk Organizer is complete, stock it with your school supplies and put it in your backpack so it's ready to be used for the new school year.

The supplies you need for school are important to ensuring you succeed! You may even use paint in some of your lessons, just like a **painter**. While the type of paints used might be different, painters require tools such as brushes, rollers, buckets, ladders, and tape. Painters use these tools to apply paint and other decorative finishes to the interior and exterior of homes and structures.

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