

Donna Erickson
Donna's Day

Lamp makeover for room

“Who turned out the lights so soon?” I overheard a 5-year-old boy ask his mom as they returned from a too-brief evening bike ride. I find myself pondering the same question. It’s as though long, bright summer evenings vanished before our eyes.

Ready or not, fall is taking hold, and lamps are back in service. But if you’re like me, you might be noticing that the lampshades in your kids’ rooms are looking outdated or dingy. The good news is that with just a few inexpensive supplies and your kids’ creativity, you can do a lampshade makeover in no time. Using colorful tissue paper and basic glue, you’ll see a successful transformation right before your eyes.

Here’s what you’ll need:

- Inexpensive, standard white lampshade without pleats.
- Sheets of tissue paper in several colors
- Household white glue diluted with a few drops of water to create a milkshakelike consistency
- Paintbrush

1. Tear tissue paper into 1-inch by 1-inch size pieces. This is a perfect job for preschoolers. Older children might prefer cutting straight-sided squares or rectangles with scissors. Either way, your lampshade will look great.

2. Set the lampshade on a newspaper-covered work surface. Paint an outside section with the glue-and-water mixture and attach the tissue paper pieces, overlapping them as you go. Paint a little of the glue mixture over the top of the tissue paper and smooth each piece out with your fingers. When the shade is covered, finish it off with a final coating of glue and water. Let dry.

Here are some creative add-on ideas:

Baby’s Room

Attach a piece of self-sticking Velcro near the base of the lamp. Place a matching piece on a toy, doll or stuffed animal and attach to the lamp.

Outer-Space Themed Room

Glue glow-in-the-dark stars on a shade that has been covered with navy or other dark-colored tissue squares.

Donna Erickson’s series ‘Donna’s Day’ airs on public television stations nationwide. Visit donnasday.com for details and to sign up for her e-newsletter.

Korean field trip



Special to The Tribune

Loganville Middle School principal Christy Bowman stands next to her father, Roy Woodard, on a trip the two took to South Korea.

Here, the pair stands in front of a guard at the door leading into North Korea at the Joint Security Area.

‘What I did on my summer vacation’

LMS | Local principal travels overseas with war veteran father

LOGANVILLE

By Stephen Milligan
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It’s one of the most common essay topics a teacher can assign at the beginning of the school year: “What I did on summer vacation.”

The usual answers will be on display in the resulting essays — trips to the beach, to the mountains, to summer camp or Disney World, family reunions, lazy days at home and a large variety of other answers.

They don’t make the teachers and administrators at local schools write out their own experiences in a five-paragraph essay, but if they did, Loganville Middle School principal Christy Bowman’s answer would be a doozy — she went to Korea.

Bowman spent a week overseas in June, traveling with her father, Roy Woodard, to the Republic of South Korea as part of the nation’s “Revisit Korea” initiative.

“My dad heard about it last year,” Bowman said. “Any veteran who served in Korea — not just in the war, but at any time — can return to the country as an honored guest.”

Woodard, who spent a year stationed in Korea as an U.S. Army missile engineer in 1963, decided to give it a try and invited his daughter as his “plus-one” on the journey.

The two signed on with Historical Military Tours in Virginia to handle the paperwork and various other concerns and paid their airfare to fly across the Pacific for a week in South Korea (the nation would later reimburse the pair for her father’s ticket and part of the cost of others, as they would pay for almost everything on the trip).

From June 22-28, the duo enjoyed an experience they could have hardly dreamed under other circumstances.

“From the time we stepped off the plane until we left Korea, we were treated like royalty,” Bowman said. “We stayed in a four-star hotel in Seoul and were escorted everywhere in luxury charter buses with police escorts.”

The pair were part of a group of about 50 people, with more than a dozen veterans honored on the trip with visits to the Korean War Memorial, a visit with the nation’s prime minister and even a trip to the Demilitarized Zone.

“We did get to go to the DMZ,” Bowman said. “When we first got there, they gave us a briefing on what we could and couldn’t do and made us sign waivers. We could take pictures of the North Korean side but you weren’t allowed to turn around and take pictures back into South Korea from that spot, I suppose for security reasons.”

They also visited inside the Joint Security Area’s buildings, including a conference room with doors leading into either country.

“We went into a United Nations building and when you walked onto the other side of this conference table, you were in North Korea,” Bowman said.

The trip also had its normal, tourist-esque side.

“We did a lot of sightseeing,” Bowman said. “Seoul was beautiful. I had traveled abroad before, but this was my first time in Asia and it was fascinating and strange. I’d like to return.”

One of Bowman’s highlights was a local affair. Before she left, she asked the Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter in Monroe for poppies, which she gave to each veteran at a ceremonial banquet they attended during the trip.

While at the ceremony, Bowman then met the adjutant general of the VFW, John E. Hamilton, who was especially pleased to see everyone decked out with a VFW poppy.

“It was real special to be



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(Top) Bowman’s father, Roy Woodard, stand with a wreath set before the Korean War Memorial during the trip to South Korea. (Above) Bowman stands with the adjutant general of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, John E. Hamilton, who thanked her for bringing poppies from the Monroe VFW chapter.

able to give the thanks to the local VFW for that,” Bowman said.

Bowman encourages others who have served in Korea to attempt the trip, too.

“The people were so kind,” Bowman said. “They would come up to the veterans and thank them for their service. It was very, very moving.”

Overall, Bowman said the entire experience was one not to be forgotten.

“It was so special that I was able to take this trip with my father and spend this one-on-one time with him,” Bowman said. “It was definitely the trip of a lifetime and I will never forget having that time with him.”