

Halloween Activities

Rice Stuffed Pumpkin

In Armenia, stuffed fruits and vegetables, known as dolma, are served for feasts and other special occasions. This dish will delight your children.

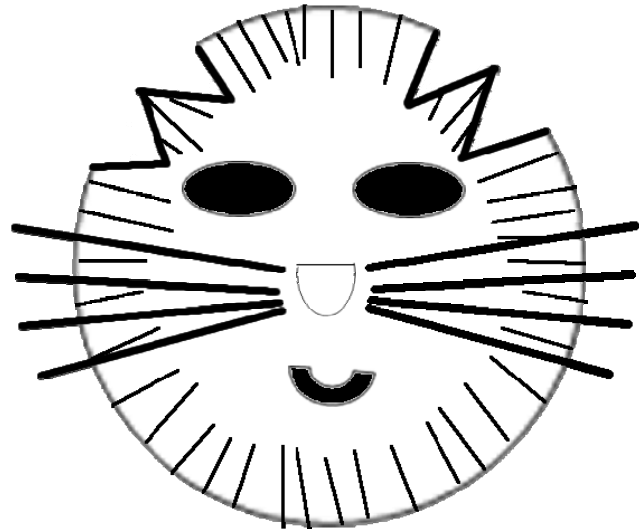
- 1 small pumpkin (under 5 pounds), washed and dried.
- 2 cups long-grain white rice.
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted.
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 3 medium cooking apples, peeled, cored , and diced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup hot water

Cut a circle around the stem of the pumpkin, as if making a jack-o-lantern. Remove the pumpkin top, scrape the seeds from it, and set aside. Scoop the seeds and pulp from the pumpkin cavity. Rinse and dry the pumpkin. With a small, sharp spoon, scoop out as much pumpkin meat as possible, taking care not to puncture the pumpkin. Dice the pumpkin meat and set it aside. In a large pot, bring 3 quarts of water to the boil. Add rice, cover and reduce to a medium/ low heat, simmer for about 15 mins. (Rice should be not quite tender, but no longer crunchy.) Drain rice thoroughly. In a large bowl, combine melted butter, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add apples, raisins, and diced pumpkin meat. Stir to coat. Toss apple mixture with rice. Stuff the pumpkin cavity with rice mixture. Pour on hot water, and replace the top of the pumpkin. Bake on a foil covered baking tray at 350F for 2 hours, or until soft. To serve cut pumpkin into wedges. Makes 12 servings.

Cat Masks

Materials

White paper plates
Wax crayons in 'cat colours'
Scissors
Blunt pencils
Plastic drinking straws
Gummed Paper
Stapler
Elastic



Method

Draw cat shape on to eat paper plate. Draw pink noses and mouths on to the gummed paper. Cut straws into thin strips for whiskers. Cut out a cat shape from the plate and get the children to heavily colour in the plate with the wax crayons in cat colours. Use a blunt pencil to score out bits of the wax to make it look like fur. Cut out a nose and mouth from the gummed paper and stick onto the mask. Cut two slanted eye holes in the mask. Staple on some of the straws to look like whiskers. Staple enough elastic to each side of the mask to fit round each child's head.