

Hot Cocoa and Hippos

You know what goes great with hot chocolate on a winter day? Marshmallow hippo treats. These easy-to-make fun snacks take less than a half-hour to create.



CREATING HIPPO TREATS:

HEAD & MOUTH: Cut halfway into end of 1 marshmallow; pull sliced portions open. Break off 2 half-inch pieces from 1 pretzel and press into sliced marshmallow for teeth.

EYES & EARS: Press 1 candy piece on each side of head past mouth slit. Tear 2 half-inch pieces from a new marshmallow, roll into balls and pinch between your fingers to create ears. Press each ear into back of hippo head.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

4 pretzel sticks (each 3¼ inches long by ¼ inch thick)
5 large marshmallows (1 inch tall by 1 inch wide)
3-4 tablespoons white frosting
1-2 drops blue food coloring
1 full graham cracker
Round candy pieces (⅛ to ¼ inch diameter)
Scissors (safety or kids' scissors)

BODY: Break a pretzel stick in half. Press 1 marshmallow onto a half-pretzel stick about halfway in. Slide another marshmallow on the other side of the pretzel till it is snug with the first one. This is the body. To attach head, stick another half-pretzel end into back of head and other end into hippo body at a downward angle.

LEGS: Break 2 pretzel sticks in half, making four 1½-inch sticks. Insert 2 sticks into bottom of first marshmallow of the body and 2 into second marshmallow of the body.

RIVER: Drip 1-2 drops of blue food coloring into 3-4 tablespoons of white frosting; mix until frosting is evenly blue. Spread frosting about ¼ inch thick on a full graham cracker. Place hippo on frosting, leaving room for another hippo (in the water).

SWIMMING HIPPO (HEAD): Cut 1 marshmallow in half - from end to end; attach eyes and ears (see left). Press head into water (blue frosting). Enjoy. Eat within a day.