

How to Make the “Frozen Fish” Bean Bag Toss Game

Materials:

- Washed and dried sturdy plastic bags from frozen fish, potatoes, frozen vegetables, or other sturdy plastic food bags, such as coffee beans, juice pouches, powdered milk, etc. (Cookie bag wrappers will not work.)
- Needle-and-thread for hand sewing or access to a sewing machine
- “Beans” for filling the bean bags – the “beans” could be plastic beads from cheap necklaces, play sand, cut-up twig pieces, fish tank gravel, small pebbles, crushed nut shells, etc.
- One cereal box or cardboard piece for fish pattern
- Scissors
- One large cardboard box to make a target

Note: Hot glue will not hold the edges of the bean bags together for any length of time, if players like to hurl the bags! Other plastic glues, such as crazy glue, gorilla glue, etc., may work but these have not been tested.

Directions:

- Draw your “frozen fish” pattern on the cereal box cardboard and cut the pattern out. The fish pattern in the photo below is approximately 6” long by 3 1/2” wide. You can create bigger fish or another bean bag critter pattern, or just use a standard rectangle as the shape of your pattern. The inside of the plastic bags facing outwards will give you white fish. Fish made by using the printed side facing out can be very interesting!
- **If you are sewing the bags by hand:** Trace your pattern onto the plastic and cut out two patterns per bean bag. Place one pattern on top of the other. Hand sew around the edge of the plastic pieces (using whatever hand stitch you are comfortable with using), leaving the “mouth” area open. See the photo below of the hand-sewn fish made from plastic shredded potato bags. Depending on the hand stitch you are using, it may be easier to follow the instructions for machine stitching below to sew and cut out your fish bean bag.
- **If you are using a sewing machine to stitch the bag together:** Trace your pattern onto the plastic. Cut out the pattern but leave a large margin around it, such as a rectangle shape. Place this rectangle on top of another piece of plastic. Machine stitch on the pattern line (no seam allowance is necessary), leaving the “mouth” area of the fish open. Cut the fish out of the plastic, leaving a very small edge of plastic along the seam. See the photo below of fish that are sewn by using a sewing machine.
Note: Whether hand sewing or machine stitching, you will not turn the bag *right-side* out once it is sewn, so make sure that the sides you want to see in the finished fish are facing outward.
- Stuff your fish with the filling. If using play sand, machine stitching is recommended, though some hand-sewers will have the skill necessary to make small-enough stitches to contain the sand. Sew up the fish’s mouth after stuffing it to encase the filling. Make as many fish as you desire, using the materials that you have at hand. If you decide to make the “Frozen Fish Bean Bag Toss Game,” you should consider making three to six bags or more.

The Frozen Fish Bean Bag Toss Game:

- There are many websites online that show you how to make a bean bag target by using a cardboard box.
- When making your target, consider drawing or printing out a shark’s mouth and head on it (see photo below). Players can then try to “feed the shark” throwing fish into its mouth or into a box directly below its mouth.

