

According to Irish legends,

leprechauns are small mythical fairies often depicted as little bearded men who wear green and are shoemakers by trade. They are known to be magical tricksters who guard their pots of gold by hiding them at the end of a rainbow. If captured by a human, they are said to grant a wish in return for their freedom.

To capture the mischievous leprechaun who was making messes in his school, the Gingerbread Man made a trap with supplies he found in his classroom—pencils, a ruler, toilet paper, and more. Below are ideas you could use to build your own leprechaun trap.

- Choose a method for trapping him. Some ideas are:

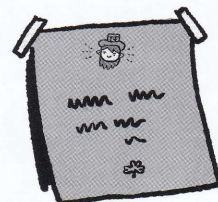
- Under a container or the lid of a box
- In a box through a trapdoor or hidden hole
- In a tall container he can't climb out of



- Build a mechanism to make the trap work. To make the lid or container fall over him when he gets to the right spot, consider using a simple machine (lever, pulley, wedge, wheel and axle, inclined plane, screw). Go to www.lauramurraybooks.com for examples.



- Lure him to the trap with something he can't resist investigating: a rainbow, a pot of gold, a trail of colored cereal or candy in rainbow order, shiny green decorations, "Free Gold" or "Leprechaun Hotel" signs.



- Decorate the trap with items leprechauns love: rainbows, shiny green glitter or sequins, signs, gold coins, shamrocks, leprechaun hats.
- Reuse items that are easy to find (shoe boxes, toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, cereal boxes, oatmeal containers, coffee cans, clean milk cartons).

