

Make a Paper Christmas Tree
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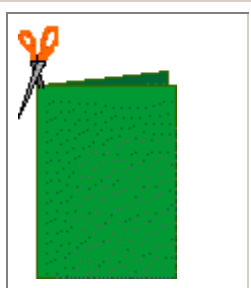
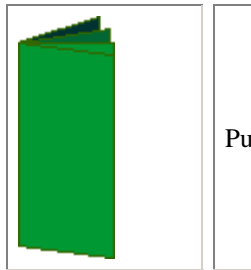
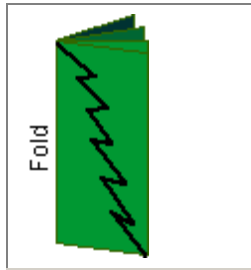
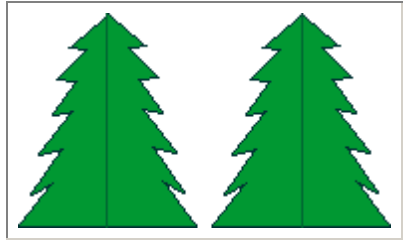
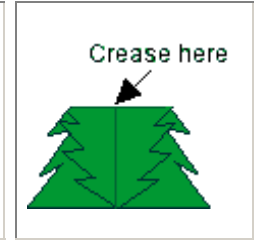


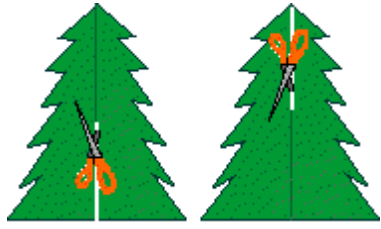
Make a simple 3-dimensional Christmas tree from construction paper. These trees look great sitting on the mantle or on a windowsill.

Supplies needed:

- Green construction paper
- Crayons, markers, glitter glue, or tempera paint
- Scissors
- Clear tape
- Optional: Other colors of construction paper, glue, hole punch, stickers



	<p>Fold a piece of green construction paper in half, then cut it in half.</p>	
	<p>Put the two pieces together, and fold them in half again.</p>	
	<p>Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold.</p>	
	<p>Cut along the line - you should get two identical trees.</p> <p>Fold the trees in half, just barely creasing the center line (this is to mark the center of the tree).</p>	

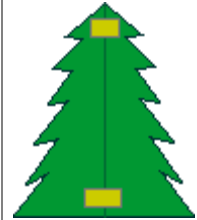


Cut a slit along the bottom half of the center of one tree and along the top half of the center of the other tree.



Slip the two trees together along the slits.

Using clear tape, tape the bottoms and tops together (pieces of tape on the bottom and at the top make the tree stand up well and stop the slit ends from flopping over).



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Decorate your tree with crayons, markers, glitter glue, or tempera paint. Or you can glue on tiny construction paper decorations or use star stickers. You can cut out tiny paper balls using a hole punch.

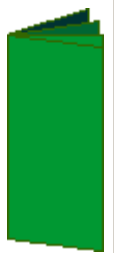
Now you have a really nice 3-dimensional Christmas decoration.



Optional: cut out a small construction paper star and cut a tiny slit in it. Put the star on the top of the tree (and secure it with some tape).



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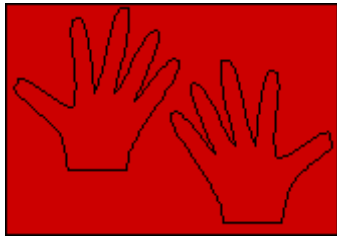
For a bigger tree: Start with two pieces of green construction paper, and fold them so they make a long, thin rectangle. Draw a tree opposite the fold. The rest of the instructions are the same.

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Paper Bag Reindeer Puppet
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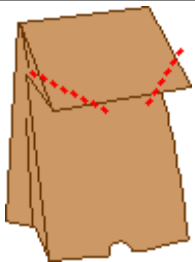
You can make a very simple reindeer puppet using a small paper lunch bag. The antlers are made from handprints traced on construction paper.

Supplies needed:

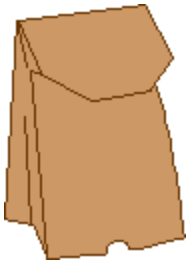
- Paper bags
- Deep red (or another color) construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Optional - googly eyes



Trace two hands on construction paper. Cut them out. These will be the reindeer's antlers.



Fold the two square edges of a paper bag under (at the dotted lines), to form the reindeer's head.



You now have the shape of the reindeer's head for the puppet.



Glue, tape, or staple the handprints behind the reindeer's head.

Cut out eyes from construction paper (or glue on googly eyes). Using red paper, cut out and glue on a large red nose. Glue them to the reindeer's face. Draw a mouth with a marker or crayons.

Santa Star Ornament
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Make this Santa Star ornament or Christmas decoration from a piece of construction paper. This type of 5-pointed star was used by Betsy Ross when she made the sewed of the United States of America.

For each **Santa Star Ornament** you will need:

- a piece of paper (red construction paper works well)
- scissors
- a glue stick
- cotton balls or polyester filling
- markers or crayons
- a hole punch



		<p>Fold a piece of paper in half. Write the letters "A", "B", and "C" on it as shown in the picture. "B" is at the mid-point of the folded paper.</p>
		<p>Fold corner "A" to point "B". Mark this new-formed corner "D."</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fold corner "C" over the paper edge running from "B" to "D." • Fold along the dotted line.
		<p>Cut the paper along the dotted line.</p>



- Unfold the star.
- Decorate the star with markers, giving Santa his eyes, nose, face, and boots.
- Glue on cotton fluff to look like Santa's beard and his coat and hat trim.
- Punch a hole in the top for hanging.

Christmas Tree Card

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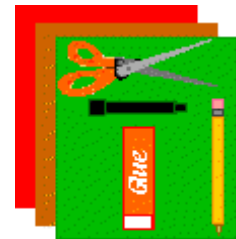
You can make a simple tree card for Christmas made from construction paper.



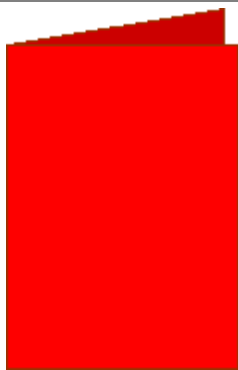
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Supplies needed:

- Printer
- Cardstock or other thick paper for the card
- Construction paper for the tree and trunk (brown, green, and yellow)
- Scissors
- A marker or pen



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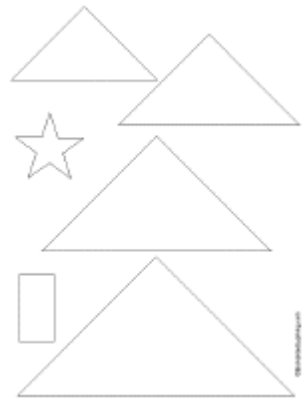


Fold a piece of cardstock or construction paper in half to form the card.

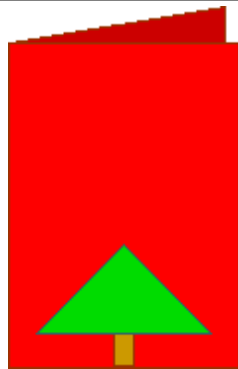


You will need to cut out a four green triangles (the boughs of the tree), a small brown rectangle (the tree trunk) and a yellow star (for the top of the tree).

To print out the [tree template, click here](#)



[Tree template](#)



Glue the brown rectangular to the lower front of your card - this will be the tree trunk.



Glue the green triangles above the tree trunk. Glue the yellow star atop the tree.



Write a Christmas greeting on your card. If you'd like, draw some ornaments on your tree (or use stickers).

You now have a festive Christmas card!

Art activities for the Pre-schoolers and the toddlers

Painting with poster paints in squeeze bottles – more like koki pens

These big marker pens can be purchased and are ideal for the younger children but equally enjoyed by the older children.



An open pen so you can see what they look like

The children were given strips of material similar to thick Vilene (Vilene is used in sewing to stiffen collars and can be bought at material shops cheaply)

They decorated the strips using the marker pens – the pens make nice big dots of colour and it sort of spreads into the material. To extend the activity the children can snip the one end of the strip to create tassels. This is a great cutting exercise for the little ones as they just have to open and close the scissors.

We hung the strips on a piece of string over the bicycle track.

(And yes, some little darlings did their best to reach them to pull them down... so make them high enough that they can't reach them.!)



Free collage with the toddlers (2-3 years) – see further for the preschoolers

These trays make great holders for collage materials. I set out coloured sucker sticks, coloured plastic pieces cut into geometric



shapes, material, wool and bits and bobs of lace etc

We had been given some thick

cardboard which was plastic like but this can be done on any medium weight paper or board and off cuts of wood would be effective.

The toddlers enjoyed pasting the collage materials to their boards. Some made several.





I coloured the glue so they could see where they had spread it and since most of them use excessive amounts of glue the colour was pleasing.

Collage for the preschoolers.

I was given some thin cellophane packets that could be opened and sealed. The preschoolers just love filling packets with 'treasures' from the collage table so they each filled up their treasure packet, closed the flap and pasted it to a page. To extend the activity I encouraged them to add other collage materials and painting too.

The treasure packet is in the middle of the page



The children love pasting feathers and coloured cellophane paper to their creations. Both can be purchased cheaply.

String painting – a good activity to repeat as they never tire of seeing the different patterns the string creates

Lay the string saturated with paint onto the folded paper on one side only. Leave a bit of string out of the paper to pull on.



Close the page and using one hand to hold the paper closed, carefully and slowly pull out the string. I helped the children to start with but once they understood the process they enjoyed feeling the string move under their hand as they pulled it out. Many commented to their friends about the funny feeling.



Open the paper and you have a magic picture. I encouraged the children to repeat the activity using a second colour.

Choose colours that mix well together e.g. yellow and red to make some orange



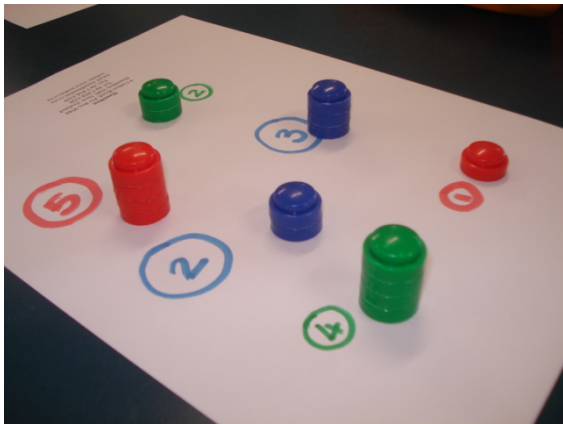
Counting and colours

We have some coloured counters at school that can stack onto each other. If you don't have these counters the touch and count cubes (Unifix blocks) will be just as effective.

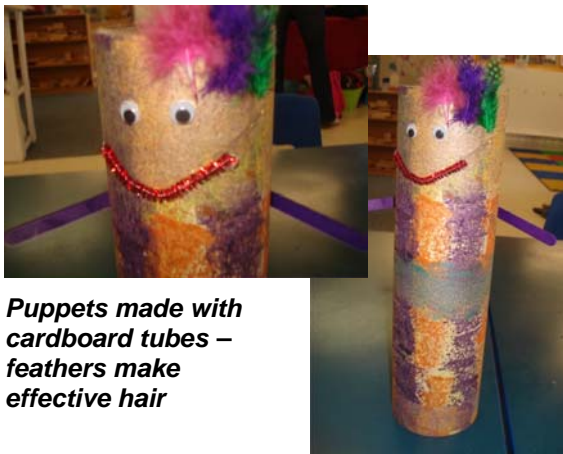


It's a good idea to put them into a container that prevents them from all ending up on the floor.

I drew numbers in colours for the children and they had to make towers using the correct colour and number.



A few other ideas to share with you



Puppets made with cardboard tubes – feathers make effective hair

Stuffing paper packets with crumpled magazine pages, sealing them and painting them as faces



Flowers made from egg box indents



Hope you enjoy these ideas and activities.

Happy Christmas to you all and have a well deserved rest. See you in the New Year.

Regards Karin©

Christmas ideas are an attachment.