

MAKE A SNOWFLAKE DECORATION



Paper snowflakes are a really nice way to decorate your house over Christmas. You can make as many as you want with lots of different types of patterns – try creating your own blizzard!

YOU WILL NEED:

WHITE PAPER
SCISSORS

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Take a sheet of white paper, place a plate on it and draw round it with a pencil. Cut the circle out.
2. Fold the circle in half.
3. Then fold it in half again so it makes a triangle.
4. And then fold it in half again so that it makes an even smaller triangle.
5. Now you've folded the paper three times you can start cutting out the patterns for your snowflake! Just cut out one or two small shapes along each side of the triangle. Make sure that you don't cut out too much otherwise the snowflake may fall apart.
6. Finally open up your triangle to reveal your beautiful snowflake! You can stick it to a window or on presents to decorate them or maybe hang it up on the Christmas tree.
7. Try making some more and cutting out different patterns – just like real snowflakes each of your snowflakes will be unique!



MAKE A POMPOM ROBIN



*Make yourself a fluffy pet robin out of pompoms!
You could use this robin as a Christmas decoration.*

YOU WILL NEED:

CARD TO MAKE TWO RINGS
(A CEREAL BOX IS PERFECT FOR THIS)

A PENCIL
BROWN WOOL
SCISSORS

GLUE
WHITE, YELLOW AND RED CARD
TO MAKE EYES, BEAK AND TUMMY

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Firstly you'll need to draw two identical circles on your card. Place a mug on the card and draw around the outside. Repeat. Cut both circles out carefully.
2. Place an egg cup in the middle of each circle and draw around it. Ask your grown-up for help with the next part. They will need to make a cut from the outside of the circle to the centre and then cut out the smaller circle. The pieces of card will be in a ring shape. (They should look like doughnuts.)
3. Take a very long piece of brown wool – roughly twice as tall as you are.
4. Poke one end of the piece of wool through the middle of the circles and wrap it around the whole ring as many times as you can. Keep going over the wool you have already wrapped as this will make your robin nice and fluffy!
5. Ask your grown-up for help with the next part. They will need to cut the whole way around the wool at the outer edge of the ring until you can carefully pull the two cardboard rings slightly apart. This can be tricky so it's best to use small sharp scissors such as nail scissors.
6. Take a length of wool and tie it in between the two cardboard rings. Knot it tightly to secure your pompom as this will hold all the threads of wool in place.
7. Now pull off the rings of card and fluff out your pompom to reveal the body of your robin – your wool will spring back to make a ball!
8. Finally cut a diamond shape out of the yellow card, folding it in the middle to create a beak. Cut two circles out of the white card for the eyes and a circle out of the red card for the tummy. Stick them on to the pompom using your glue. Now you have a fluffy little robin! (What name are you going to give it?)

MAKE WRAPPING PAPER



Homemade wrapping paper is really snazzy and is great fun to make! Here are two ideas you can use for making and designing your own.

YOU WILL NEED:

LARGE SHEETS OF COLOURED PAPER
WHITE AND GREEN PAINT
FELT-TIP PENS
A POTATO
CHRISTMAS-TREE COOKIE CUTTER

SNOWMAN WRAPPING PAPER

1. Lay your large sheet of paper on the table in front of you.
2. Put the white paint into a bowl – you're going to be using your finger to paint the paper so it's going to get messy!
3. Dip your finger into the bowl and paint a snowman on the paper – two circles, one on top of the other.
4. Repeat this shape all over the paper.
5. Once the paint is completely dry, use a black felt-tip pen and draw a hat, arms, eyes and a mouth onto each snowman. You can even add black spots for buttons on their tummies! If you have an orange pen you can add a carrot for their noses.

CHRISTMAS TREE WRAPPING PAPER

1. This activity is really fun and uses a potato to decorate your paper!
2. Ask your grown-up if they can cut a thick slice from the middle of a raw potato.
3. Press a Christmas-tree cookie cutter into the potato, so that the slice is Christmas-tree shaped.
4. Lay the large sheet of paper on the table in front of you.
5. Put some green paint into a bowl and dip the potato in. Press the shape on to the paper and repeat until it is covered with Christmas trees.
6. When the paint is completely dry use some felt-tips to decorate your trees with baubles. When you are happy with your paper you can use it to wrap up all your Christmas presents!

MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS CRACKERS



Everyone loves Christmas crackers and they're essential to every Christmas dinner! You can fill your homemade crackers with anything you like – jokes, hats, small toys or sweets.

YOU WILL NEED:

3 TOILET-ROLL TUBES
WRAPPING PAPER
STICKY TAPE

*CRACKER SNAPS (YOU CAN FIND THESE ONLINE,
BUT DON'T WORRY IF YOU DON'T HAVE THEM)*

SCISSORS
THIN CARD
RIBBON

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Cut a 20cm x 30cm rectangle of wrapping paper.
2. Lay the first tube lengthways in the middle of the paper. If you have cracker snaps, put one through the tube and put some sticky tape at both ends to attach it to the wrapping paper so that it stays in place.
3. Now put your other cardboard tubes on either side of the central tube and roll your paper around the tubes. Use sticky tape to keep the paper in place.
4. Carefully pull out both of the end tubes and keep them to make another cracker. Now you need to add your gift, hat or joke! Feed it through one end of the tube and then tie ribbons at both ends of the crackers, just above where the central tube ends. Be careful not to tear your paper.
5. Repeat this to make one for everyone coming for Christmas dinner.

TIP: If you don't have any cracker snaps, you can get the same effect by shouting BANG as loudly as possible when you pull the crackers!

Here are some ideas for what you can put inside your crackers:

- * Paper hats – you can make your own.
- * A small chocolate.
- * A small gift – a pencil or crayons would be good. You could even try fitting in a tiny pompom robin or a lavender bag!
- * A handwritten joke – cut out small rectangles of paper and write your favourite jokes on them.



MAKE A WINSTON FINGER PUPPET



*Here's a way to make your very own little Winston chum!
You can stick him on your finger or pop him in your pocket
and take him anywhere you go!*

YOU WILL NEED:

TWO A4 SHEETS OF WHITE CARD
SCISSORS
PVA GLUE OR STICKY TAPE
PENCILS AND PENS
5CM PIECE OF STRING OR WOOL

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Start by cutting out these four shapes from your card. Ask your grown-up to help you.
2. First of all you need to create Winston's body. Find a medium-sized cereal bowl and place it on your card. Take a pencil and draw a circle around the bowl and then carefully cut out the circle.
4. The second shape will be for holding Winston in place when he is on your finger – so this is very important! Draw a square shape on your card – with the sides roughly the length of your second finger – and carefully cut it out.
5. The final shapes will be Winston's ears. For these find a bottle top, use it to draw two circles and carefully cut them out. Fold both circles about a quarter of the way from the bottom. Now you have all the things you need to put Winston together!
6. Take the circle you have just made for Winston's body, make a single cut from the edge to the centre and roll it into a cone shape so that it is thin at the top but much wider at the bottom. Once you're happy with your cone put some sticky tape down the join to hold it in place.
7. Put some glue on the bottom folds of the ears and stick them to Winston's body, roughly halfway down the cone.
8. Glue or tape the string or wool to the body so that it dangles out of the end of the cone. But make sure you have put it on the same side as the ears!
9. Now take the square and roll it into a cylinder just big enough for your second finger to fit in snugly. Fix it in place with some glue or sticky tape and then glue it inside the cone.
10. Finally find a black felt-tip pen and carefully draw on Winston's eyes. If you have a red or a pink felt-tip or crayon you could use that to draw his nose and maybe some nice rosy cheeks.

MAKE GINGERBREAD MICE



Bake your very own gingerbread Winstons. They're really yummy and smell so Christmassy when they are cooking, making the perfect treat for your friends and family. This recipe makes twelve mice.

INGREDIENTS:

60G UNSALTED BUTTER
50G BROWN SUGAR
2 TABLESPOONS HONEY
150G PLAIN FLOUR
½ TEASPOON BICARBONATE OF SODA
1 TEASPOON GROUND GINGER
12 RAISINS
6 DRIED CRANBERRIES
24 WHOLE ALMONDS
EXTRA BUTTER FOR GREASING

HOW TO MAKE:

Ask your grown-up for help with this recipe. Make sure your hands are clean before you start because you're going to have to do some mixing with them! (Make sure your grown-up washes their hands too.)

1. Ask your grown-up to preheat your oven to 180c/Gas Mark 4.
2. Before you start you'll need to grease a baking tray. To do this just put a little bit of butter on a piece of kitchen paper and wipe the bottom of the tray with it – this is so the mice don't stick to it!
3. Put the butter, sugar and honey into a saucepan and melt them together over a low heat. (Ask your grown-up for help with this.)
4. Mix together the flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger in a mixing bowl.
5. Once the butter mixture has melted ask your grown-up to add it to the mixing bowl.
6. When it's cooled a little mix it all together with your hands. If it feels too sticky you can put in a bit more flour. If it feels too dry you can add a little bit of water.
7. Now divide your dough into twelve pieces, roll each piece into a ball and put them on the baking tray.
8. Using the palm of your hand, try to flatten the balls and then pinch them into a teardrop shape – these will be your mice.
9. Now you have to make Winston's face! Take the cranberries and raisins and cut them in half using a pair of scissors. Stick the raisin halves on as Winston's eyes and use half a cranberry for his nose. Finally stick the almonds on the top of the balls for Winston's ears.
10. Put the baking tray in the oven and bake for five to eight minutes.
11. When they are ready take them out of the oven and leave them to cool. Enjoy your delicious Winston mice with friends and family!

MAKE STAINED-GLASS WINDOW BISCUITS



*These biscuits look and taste really special! The boiled sweets
on top makes them stand out and look really Christmassy.
This recipe makes twelve biscuits.*

INGREDIENTS:

250G PLAIN FLOUR
125G BUTTER
60G CASTER SUGAR
COLOURED BOILED SWEETS

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Make sure you wash your hands before you start.
2. Ask your grown-up to preheat the oven to 160c/Gas Mark 3.
3. Line a tray with baking paper. This is so the biscuits don't stick.
4. Put the flour, butter and sugar in a mixing bowl and then rub all the ingredients together using your hands.
5. When the mixture starts holding together shape it into a ball. You've just made your own biscuit dough. Cover the bowl and put it in the fridge for twenty minutes.
6. Roll the dough out with a rolling pin until it is roughly as thick as your middle finger and use festive cookie cutters to cut out any shapes you like! Once you have cut out all your shapes put them on to the baking tray.
7. Cut a hole in the middle of each biscuit with a small cutter. Ask your grown-up to help you with this!
8. Now is the really fun part! Put your boiled sweets into a clean tea towel – one colour per towel – then bash them lightly with a rolling pin, until they are all broken up.
9. Sprinkle a teaspoon of crushed sweet into the hole in each biscuit.
10. Put them in the oven for ten to fifteen minutes.
11. Once they are cooked let them cool and then enjoy! They will look really great and taste even better!



MAKE CHRISTMAS FAIRY PEG-DOLLS



*These little dolls are perfect for perching on the Christmas tree,
on top of presents or great to give as gifts.*

YOU WILL NEED:

A WOODEN DOLLY PEG
FELT-TIP PENS
FABRIC CIRCLE (ABOUT 15CM DIAMETER)
ELASTIC BAND
THIN SPARKLY PIPE CLEANER
(OR GLITTER TO DECORATE A NON-SPARKLY ONE)
SHINY SWEETIE WRAPPER OR KITCHEN FOIL
DOUBLE-SIDED STICKY TAPE
SILVER CARDBOARD (OR ORDINARY CARDBOARD
COVERED IN KITCHEN FOIL)

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Draw your doll's face and hair on the dolly peg.
2. Make a small hole in the fabric – just big enough to squeeze over the doll's head. Pull it down and secure with an elastic band. (If you don't have fabric you could use a paper napkin, a thick tissue or a paper doily.)
3. Make a sash from a folded sweetie wrapper or a piece of folded kitchen foil. Cover the elastic band with this and secure at the back with double-sided sticky tape.
4. Cut a pair of wings out of the silver card (or plain cardboard covered in kitchen foil) and secure to the back of your doll with double-sided sticky tape.
5. Twist the pipe cleaner around the neck twice for arms. Then peg the doll on to the Christmas tree.

You could also try making a Christmas angel. Use white or silver fabric for the skirt and kitchen foil for the sash. Give your doll hair made from wool and make a halo out of an extra sparkly pipe cleaner twisted into a halo shape and attach to the back of the doll.

Or perhaps you could make a Father Christmas doll. Use red crêpe paper for his clothes and hat, cotton wool for his beard and the trimming on his outfit, and black felt for his boots. Don't forget to make him a felt sack too, stuffed with cotton wool to look like presents!

MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS



Making a salt dough decoration is a perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit. And even better, once you've made these decorations they will last for years!

YOU WILL NEED:

1 CUP SALT
2 CUPS FLOUR
 $\frac{3}{4}$ CUP WATER

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Ask your grown-up to preheat your oven. It needs to be on the lowest possible setting, otherwise your decorations may crack!
2. Put the salt and the flour in a large bowl and mix them together using a wooden spoon.
3. Add in the water a little at a time and keep mixing. When you've added all the water the mixture should feel like dough.
4. Put the dough onto a table and keep pressing and rubbing it with your hands until it is smooth and all the ingredients have been combined.
5. Now you're ready to roll! Roll the dough out with a rolling pin until it is roughly as thick as a one pound coin.
6. Use Christmas biscuit cutters to make the shapes you want then use a pencil to make a small hole at the top of each shape – this is where you will put the ribbon to hang the decoration on the Christmas tree later.
7. Now you need to bake them! Put some baking paper on a baking tray and then arrange your shapes on the paper.
8. Leave them in the oven for four hours so that they are fully hard.
9. When they are ready take them out and leave to cool.
10. Now for the fun bit – decorating! Use acrylic paints (these stick well to the dough) to decorate your ornaments in any way you like. When the paint is dry put a small ribbon through the holes you made with the pencil and hang them on the Christmas tree.

MAKE A SNOW GLOBE



A homemade snow globe is a fantastic way to create a lovely wintry wonderland of your own. (It's also a wonderful opportunity to really go wild with glitter which is always a real treat!)

YOU WILL NEED:

A SCREW-TOP JAR
A SMALL PLASTIC TOY – YOU COULD USE SOME
CHRISTMAS CAKE DECORATIONS
GLYCERINE – YOU CAN FIND THIS IN THE BAKING AISLE
GLUE – NOT WATER-SOLUBLE
GLITTER

Don't worry if you don't have any glycerine. It does make the glitter float better but it's not essential!

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Fill your jar with water and screw the lid on.
2. Shake it about to make sure there aren't any leaks.
3. Take the lid off and dry it with a tea towel. Then glue your toy to the inside of the lid. Leave it to dry for twenty minutes.
4. Empty the jar and re-fill it using two parts water and one part glycerine. The glycerine thickens the water so that your glitter snow will fall slowly.
5. Sprinkle in the glitter and give it a good stir.
6. Screw the lid back on VERY tightly.

Now get shaking!



Hellos!

I got the idea for *How Winston Delivered Christmas* when I was helping my niece and nephews write their letters to Father Christmas, and I wondered (with a shiver) what would happen if one of the letters got waylaid? Hopefully there would be some kind person (or in this case a mouse) to deliver it for us. And what adventures would that character have whilst trying to complete their Very Important Mission?

I thought that splitting it up so that you read a chapter a day might also help to get you even more giddy for Father Christmas's visit on Christmas Eve too.

Of course, Christmas isn't just about the things you buy from the shops. I wanted to write a story about the sorts of things that are free – like bravery and kindness. I hope Winston's adventure shows you that you are never too tiny to be brave and that little acts of kindness can often make a huge difference to people.

Love from Alex



HOW
WINSTON
DELIVERED
CHRISTMAS
Alex T. Smith

18.10.2018
9781509851522
Hardback • £14.99

Discover your new favourite festive family tradition with *How Winston Delivered Christmas* by Alex T. Smith! This heart-warming story is perfect to share and enjoy in the run up to Christmas, overflowing with fun things to make and do each day in December as you follow Winston, a very brave mouse, on his mission to deliver a mislaid letter to Father Christmas.


MACMILLAN
Children's Books