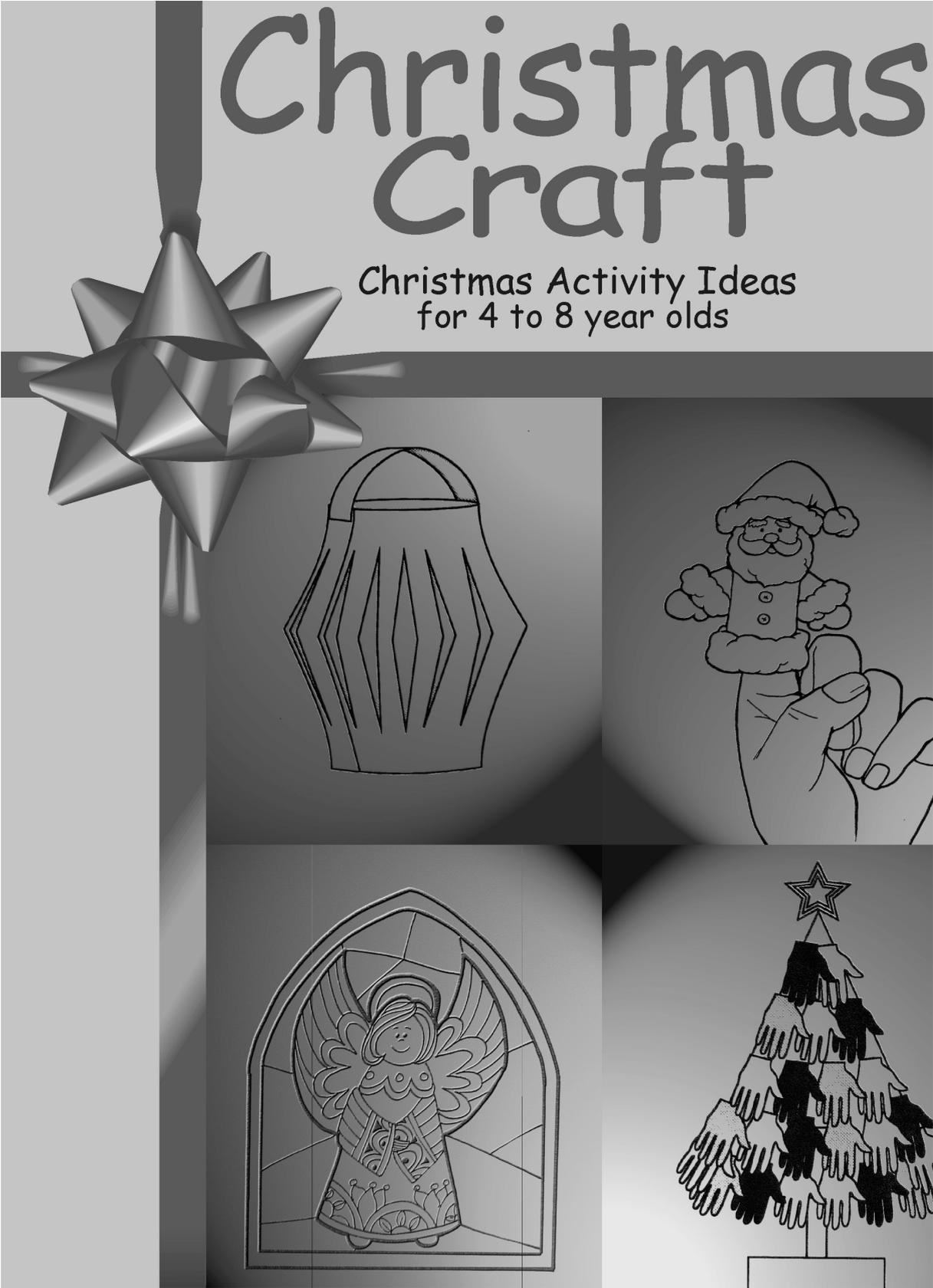




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REAU8007**

Christmas Craft

Christmas Activity Ideas
for 4 to 8 year olds



Christmas Craft

The celebration of Christmas has universal high appeal for all ages. This book provides a wide range of practical activities and worksheets ideal for individual and group participation based on the Christmas theme.

There is a wide variety of craft topics presented and teachers can choose those most appropriate to their students' skill level, materials available and the final appeal of the products being created.

As with most crafts, instructions can become complex, however as we feel all activities are virtually self explanatory, we have provided guidance only. The individual teacher can easily adapt, alter and create many different versions of the craft ideas being presented.



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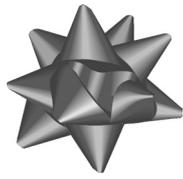
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Christmas Templates



Universal Symbols

★ Christmas Tree

- In pre-Christian times in the northern hemisphere bonfires were lit to represent the hidden sun, which was often obscured by clouds during the northern winter season. The pine tree, which was originally covered in candles, and in modern times is decorated with sparkling lights, evolved from the bonfire tradition. The first tree decorated in Britain was supposedly created by Prince Albert.

★ Tinsel

- One explanation of tinsel's origin is that spider webs spun during the night glistened like tinsel in the early morning dew. Children may observe this on trees in the school yard, although the effect is dependent on the climate.

★ Mistletoe and Holly

- These hardy plants were used to decorate homes in the northern hemisphere winters when greenery was scarce. The idea of kissing under the mistletoe was derived from an early fertility rite.

★ Christmas Stockings

- See Saint Nicholas (People of Christmas).

★ Bon Bons or Crackers

- These started as a wrapped gift of sugared almonds, given as a sign of peace. An Englishman later added messages, riddles and trinkets, and saltpeter strips create the excitement of an explosion.



Christmas Craft

- ★ Advent Calendars
- ★ Trinket Tree
- ★ Christmas Collage
- ★ Create-A-Tree
- ★ Present Tree
- ★ Christmas Mobile
- ★ Hanging Stars
- ★ Christmas Lantern
- ★ Noël Candle



★ Advent Calendars

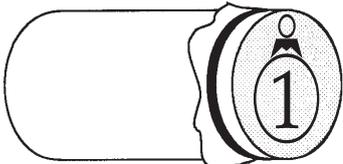
A special way of building the excitement of Christmas approaching. The countdown to Christmas is marked by small gifts or sweets.

★ Pyramid Approach

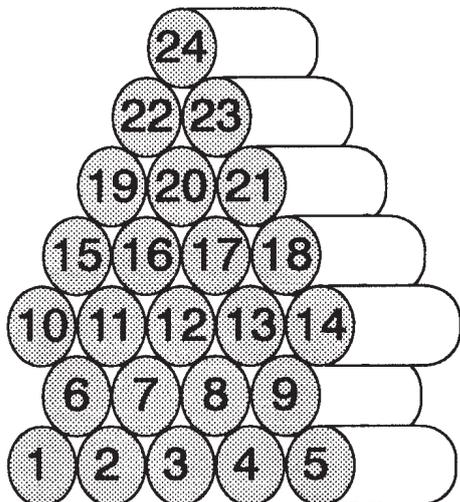
(Group or individual activity)

Materials:

- Cardboard cylinders (toilet roll cores)
- Small trinkets or sweets
- Coloured paper
- Glue or elastic bands

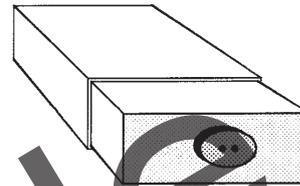


- Children create 24 coloured cylinders and build them geometrically into a well shaped pyramid.
- It should then be glued or wrapped to maintain the shape.
- Each day a cylinder is opened to reveal the surprise. (*Hint – surprises are best placed in daily to avoid the disappearing surprise syndrome.*)



★ Match This

(Group or individual activity)



- Children collect 24 empty matchboxes or similar small sized boxes.
- These are arranged and wrapped into a compact shape (e.g. 6x4).
- Each box is numbered, and one is opened every day in order to reveal the surprise.

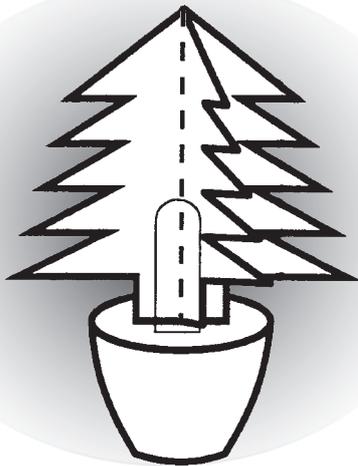
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

★ Personalized variation:

If the class numbers are limited each box can be individually named and the gift or surprise be chosen to suit the individual (*i.e. a mini Christmas present*).



★ Trinket Tree



(Group or individual activity)

Create a small 3-D Christmas tree for display and decoration.

Materials:

- *Small plastic container*
- *Ice cream stick stem*
- *Craft glue*
- *Glitter*
- *Pencils*
- *Paper*
- *Cotton wool*
- *Template (page 13)*

- Photocopy the template.
- These templates should be coloured and decorated before being glued together.
- Use an ice cream stick stem and plant your tree into a paper filled plastic yoghurt container.
- Cotton wool can be used to give a snow effect.

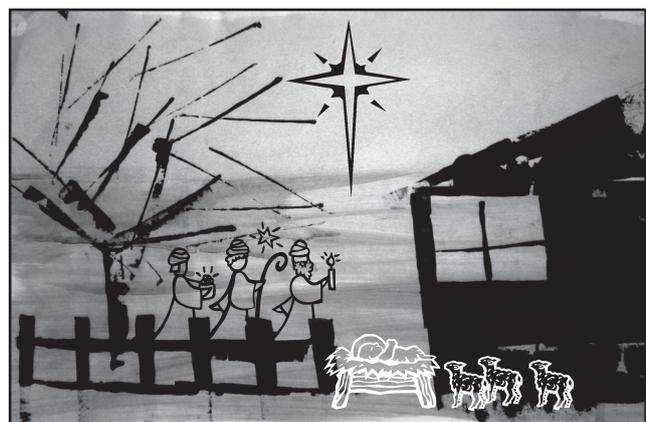
★ Christmas Collage

(Group or individual activity)

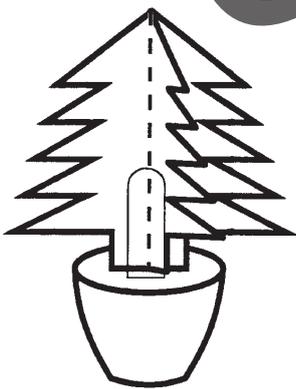
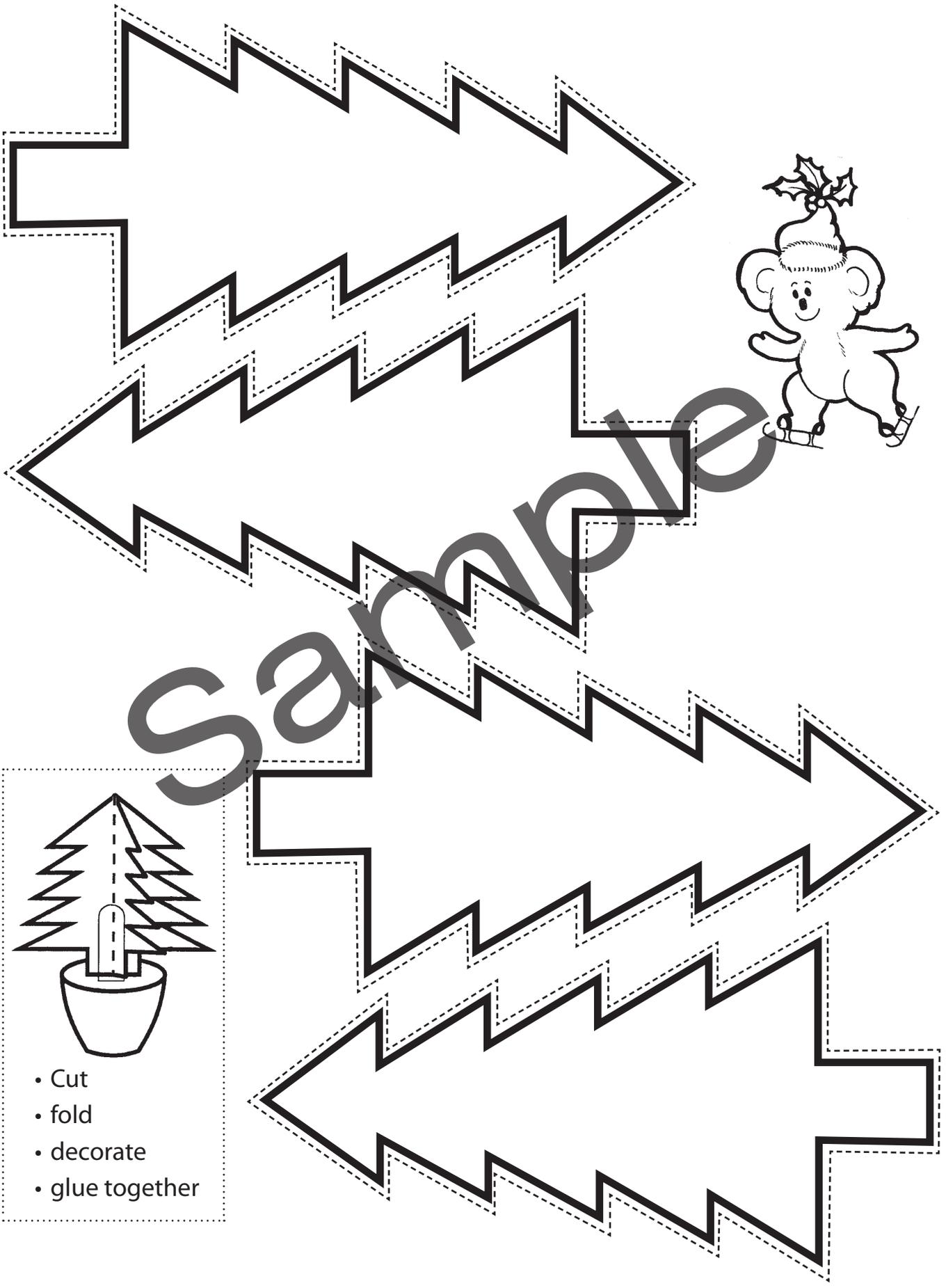
Materials:

- *Large paper/card*
- *Paints*
- *Craft glue*
- *Various collage materials*

- A large sheet of paper or card is pinned on to the wall to form the collage base.
- This can then be 'washed' with paints to create an impression of ground or sky.
- Children decide on the theme and approach (e.g. *the nativity scene or an abstract collection of Christmas images*).
- Children then use templates or original artwork to create the result.
- Encourage wide use of materials, *i.e. Christmas wrapping paper, bells, cotton wool, wood, plants ... whatever can create a 3-D effect and is able to be glued.*



Template: Trinket Tree



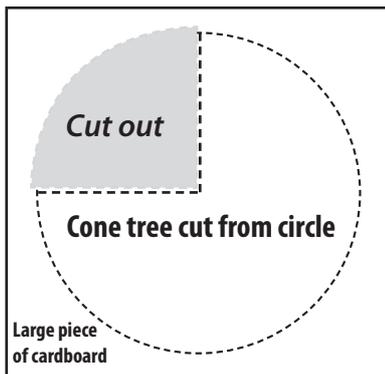
- Cut
- fold
- decorate
- glue together

★ Create-A-Tree

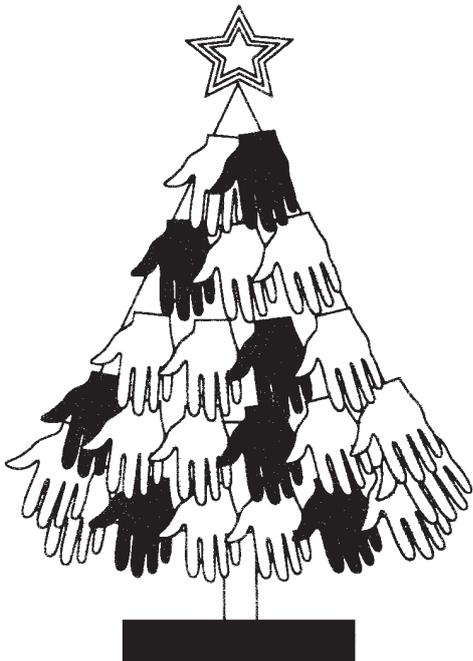
(Group activity)

Materials:

- Cardboard tube (central stem)
- Cone tree cut from circle
- Paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Decorative materials



- Create a large, coloured, cone shaped tree from cardboard.
- Securely attach the central stem and plant it firmly into a sand and brick filled bucket or pot plant.
- Children trace around their hands, cutting out and gluing them onto the tree.
- If they leave a 'wrist' for gluing and overlap the hands an attractive fluttering effect is created.
- Decorate the hands with tinsel, glitter, etc.



★ Present Tree

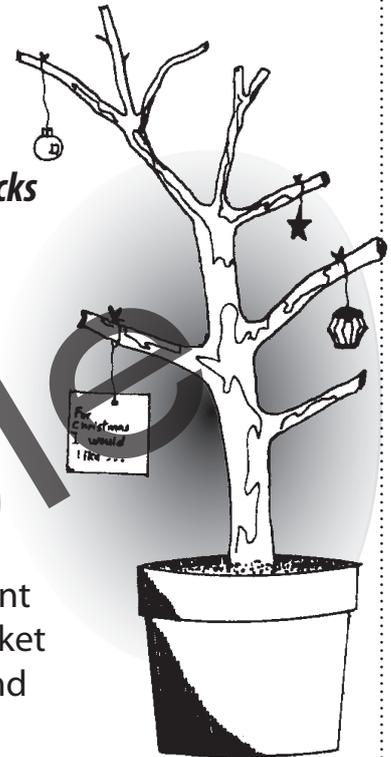
One way of displaying children's Christmas decorations is a present tree.

Materials:

- Branch/bush
- Bucket/pot
- Sand and bricks
- Paint
- Christmas decorations
- Gift wrap

- Use a dead branch or bush and securely plant it into a bucket of damp sand and bricks.

- Paint and decorate the branch with tinsel and Christmas theme objects.
- Decorate the bucket with gift wrap.



★ Secret Friend

This idea can also be extended to become the 'secret friend' approach for gift giving. This is where everybody is given a secret friend and they purchase and give this friend a gift. These are labelled and are placed under the tree for the end of term party. (Hint: Set limits of the expense of gifts, e.g. \$2) Some monitoring of 'friends' may be required to make sure the gifts are non-offensive.



★ Christmas Mobile

An idea that combines maths (weight), science (balance) and Christmas (decorations) via a mobile activity.

Materials:

- *Light string or fishing line for hanging*
- *Dowel*
- *Straws*
- *Satay sticks or light twigs for the cross arms*
- *Paper punch*
- *Glue or paper clips*
- *Small templates (see pages 47-56)*
- *Decorations*
- *Material*
- *Tinsel*
- *Glitter.*
- *Cotton wool*
- Children make different Christmas decorations.
- They then experiment with different compositions to create a visual effect that is well balanced.

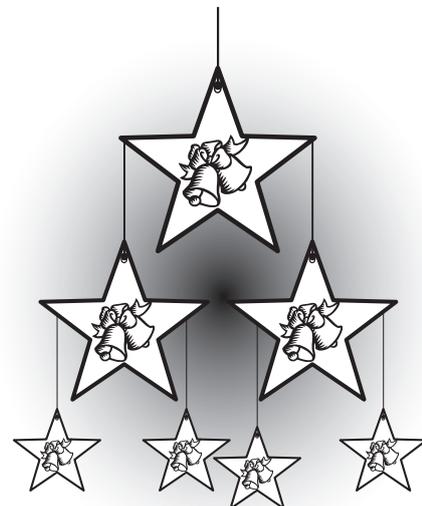


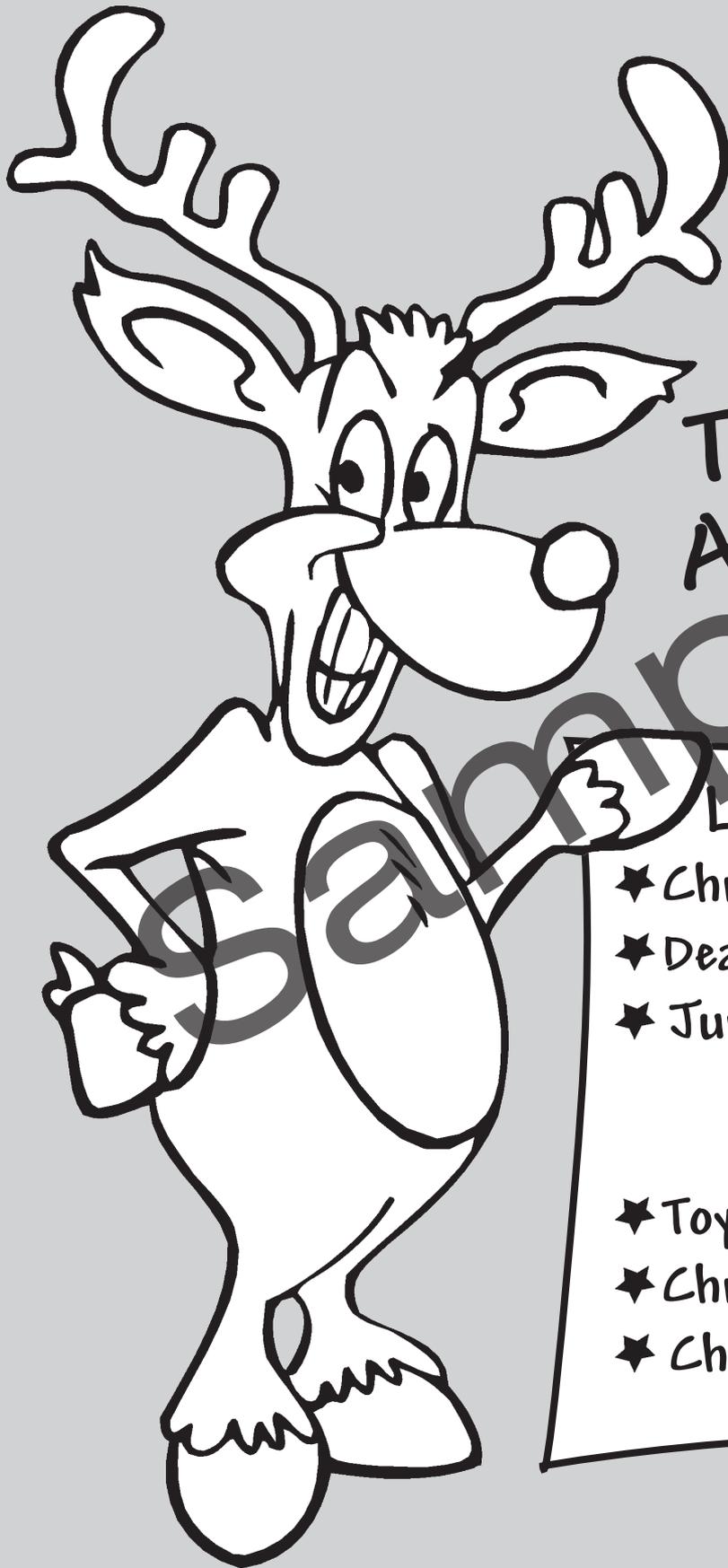
★ Hanging Stars

This star mobile uses the idea of different sized templates of a simple star.

Materials:

- *Stiff cardboard*
- *Light cardboard*
- *String/fishing line*
- *Punch*
- *Decorating materials*
- The mobile centres around a large, strong star which supports a number of smaller stars.
- Children brightly decorate their stars and attach them with light string or fishing line.
- Assistance with punching may be necessary to avoid being too close to the edge.
- Stiff cardboard is needed for the main star, graduating to lighter card for the 'supplementary' stars.
- Avoid too many stars as they will easily tangle and create frustration.





Thematic Activities

LANGUAGE

- ★ Christmas Search
- ★ Dear Santa
- ★ Jumbled Words

MATHS

- ★ Toys for Sale
- ★ Christmas Difference
- ★ Christmas Lists

