

Crafts 'n Snacks

A Monthly Series from Keepsake Curriculum

December

Craft: 3D Christmas Tree

Snack: Peppermint Bark

Story Ideas:

- "The Tale of Three Trees" by Angela Elwell Hunt
- "The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree" by Gloria Houston
- "The Biggest Christmas Tree Ever" by Steven Kroll
- "Pick a Pine Tree" by Patricia Tont

3D Christmas Tree

Such a fun twist on a Christmas tree scene using only construction paper and glue!

Materials:

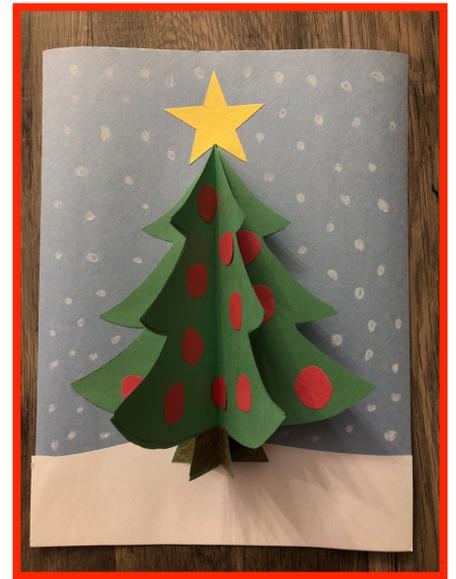
Christmas tree template

Construction paper (yellow, red, green, white, and blue)

White & brown crayon

Scissors

Glue stick



Instructions:

1. Cut strip off the bottom of the white paper (positioned vertically).
2. Glue the white strip to the bottom of the blue paper.
3. Cut out the tree template and trace onto the green construction paper. You will need four trees; cut.
4. Use the brown crayon to color the stump on the trees; fold each tree in half.



stump on the trees; fold each tree in half.

5. Cut 4 strips off the red paper and fold it back and forth in a fan motion so that you can cut out 8 berries/ornaments for each tree.



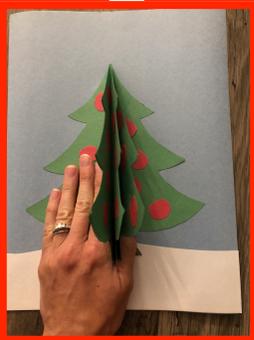


6. Glue 8 berries/ornaments onto each tree.

7. Take one of the trees and fold the right side over; rub that half with glue stick and stick the left half of the second tree to the first. Continue with the 3rd and 4th tree.



8. After gluing all 4 trees together, flip it over and rub the glue all over; stick the tree to the blue paper with the stump touching the snow.

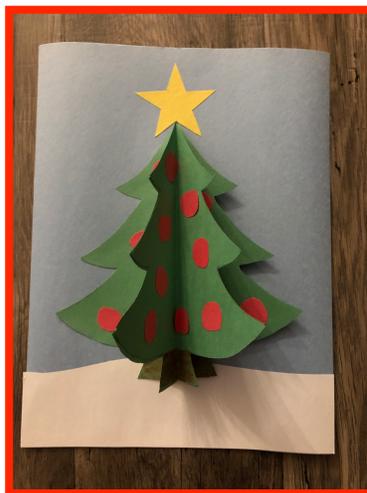


9. Cut the star template out and trace onto yellow construction paper.

10. Cut out the star and glue on top of the tree.

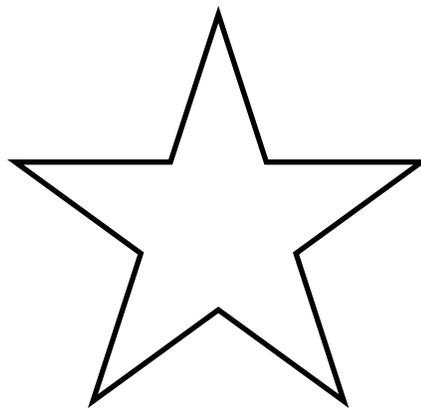
11. Use the white crayon

to draw snow around the back ground of the picture.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Print and trace 4
trees on green
construction paper.
Trace the star on
yellow construction
paper.



Peppermint Bark

Ingredients:

1 package (16 oz) vanilla-flavored candy coating (almond bark), broken into pieces

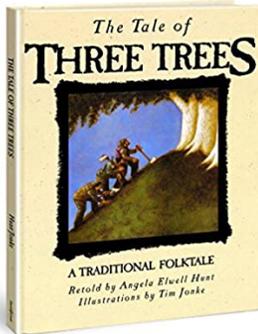
24 hard peppermint candies

Directions:

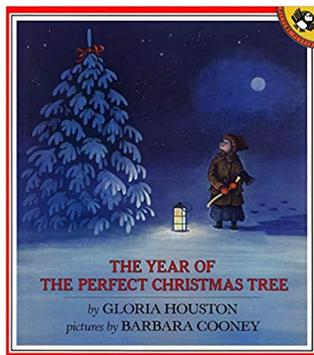
1. Cover cookie sheet with waxed paper, aluminum foil or cooking parchment paper. Place candy coating in 8-cup microwavable measure or 2-quart microwavable casserole.
2. Microwave uncovered on high 2 to 3 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds, until almost melted; stir until smooth.
3. Place peppermint candies in heavy plastic bag; crush with rolling pin or bottom of small heavy saucepan. Pour crushed candies into wire strainer. Shake strainer over melted coating until all of the tiniest candy pieces fall into the coating; reserve the larger candy pieces.
4. Stir coating to mix evenly. Spread coating evenly on cookie sheet. Sprinkle evenly with remaining candy pieces.
5. Let stand about 1 hour or until cool and hardened. Break into pieces.

* This recipe was found at bettycrocker.com

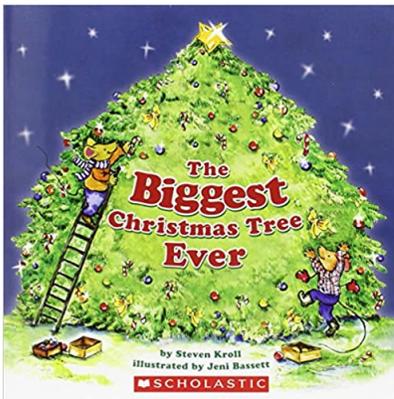
Christmas Tree Read-Alouds



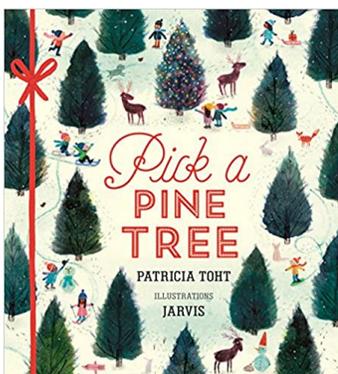
“The Tale of Three Trees” by Angela Elwell Hunt -Featuring the wonderful illustrations of Tim Jonke, this best-selling children’s book tells the story of Jesus from a new and unusual point of view. Children will be deeply touched as they understand, perhaps for the first time, the significance of Christ’s life and his atoning sacrifice on the cross.



“The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree” by Gloria Houston - This unforgettable tale, illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Barbara Cooney, has become a seasonal classic—a touching and joyful story about courage and the power of family. (Amazon description)



“The Biggest Christmas Tree Ever” by Steven Kroll - It's the day after Thanksgiving, and Clayton and Desmond feel the chill in the air. The cool weather makes them think of Christmas . . . and Christmas makes them think of Christmas trees! Who'll find the biggest one? In the newest installment of this beloved, bestselling series, Clayton the town mouse and Desmond the country mouse team up to bring the spirit of Christmas to Mouseville—in a BIG way. (Amazon description)



“Pick a Pine Tree” by Patricia Toht - A festive read-aloud brimming with all the joy and excitement of Christmastime — beginning, of course, with picking out a tree! Part of the magic of the Christmas season stems from the traditions that families and friends take part in every year: hanging up stockings; putting lights in the windows; and, one of the most important of all, picking out and taking home the Christmas tree. . . Joyously drawn and rhythmically written, this celebration of family, friends, and the holiday season is as merry as the tradition it depicts. (Amazon description)