

Christmas is almost upon us, so if you are in need of some quick and easy crafts, the Arts team have collected together some of their favourites for you to try. These all need minimal preparation and use items you've probably either already got or can buy easily ... have fun!



Candy cane reindeer



Cut a pipe cleaner in half, then cut one piece in half again. Wrap the longer piece around a wrapped candy cane and twist tightly to secure. Twist the smaller pieces around to form antlers. Glue on eyes and a pom-pom nose. Add a hanging loop if desired.

Wonderfully easy wreaths



Trim the centre from a paper plate to leave a ring. Cut a strip from the end of a pack of crepe paper. Staple the end of the strip to the plate and then wrap it around to cover the card.



Staple the end to secure, then staple on a piece of tinsel. Wrap this around in a similar way, allowing the crepe to show through (we used half a strip of tinsel for a large plate).

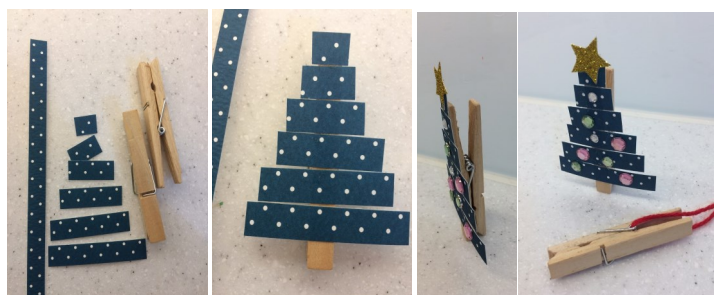
Punch a hole near the edge of the plate and thread a ribbon through to form a hanging loop.

Use glue dots to add a bow and any other decorations, or punch another hole and hang them from the bottom.



Mini trees

Cut a 1cm wide strip from card, then divide into 5 or 6 graduated length pieces. Use glue or double sided tape to stick these onto a wooden clothes peg. Decorate with sequins or jewels if you like. Stand up on a shelf or thread a hanging cord through the spring.



Christmas biscuits

Decorate digestive biscuits to make seasonal treats. Mix icing sugar with enough water to make a **thick** paste (for the robin add cocoa or use chocolate frosting or melted chocolate). Carefully spread the icing over the biscuit, working from the centre outwards. Tap or shake the biscuit slightly to level the icing. For the fairy lights, use some piping icing to make the strings, then press Smartie-type sweets sideways into the icing for the bulbs.



For the robin, use roll out icing to make a red breast, beak and wings as shown. Place onto the wet icing and add candy, icing, or chocolate chip eyes.

Tied trees

Use twigs, cinnamon sticks or even lolly sticks and tie on strips of fabric (get a friend to help). Trim the strips to give a tree shape, then tie a hanging thread to the top and glue on a star or button.



Join the Arts Team's celebration



If you've enjoyed the Arts Team's craft packs and our pre-Covid activity days, we hope that you will join us for our next venture.

We are planning for **'100 to celebrate 100'** - a February half term activity for 100 girls, from any section, together with their leaders, to enjoy a creative celebration of 100 years of Birmingham County. Cost £10.00
*Plan A is for a whole day at Trefoil House on **Saturday 26th February 2022**,*

just in case though, there is a plan B too!

Bookings will open in January and will initially be limited to a maximum of 10 girls from any unit.

Remember that all the previous Arts Team ideas can be found in the leaders' area of the Girlguiding Birmingham website and videos can be found on our YouTube channel.

The Arts Team hope you've enjoyed all these activities.

Please let us know how you have got on - we would love to see pictures of your creations too!

Please email : girlguidingbham@gmail.com

post on the Girlguiding Birmingham Facebook page
or tag us on Twitter or Instagram, @GirlguidingBham

Comments/suggestions? email : girlguidingbham@gmail.com



Take it further: lots of these activities can also be used towards various challenges, skill builders, unit meeting activities and badges.

We hope you have had fun ... remember to share what you have done!

