

# **A Place for Discovery**

at the  
Illinois State Museum

502 South Spring Street  
in Springfield

website: <http://museum.state.il.us>

For more information about  
A Place for Discovery or  
Super Saturday programs,  
please contact the  
Education Section at  
(217) 782-6044.

**Super Saturday at the  
Illinois State Museum  
presents**

## *Holidays Around the World!*



## **Activity & Craft Book**

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*make even more holiday  
crafts at home!*

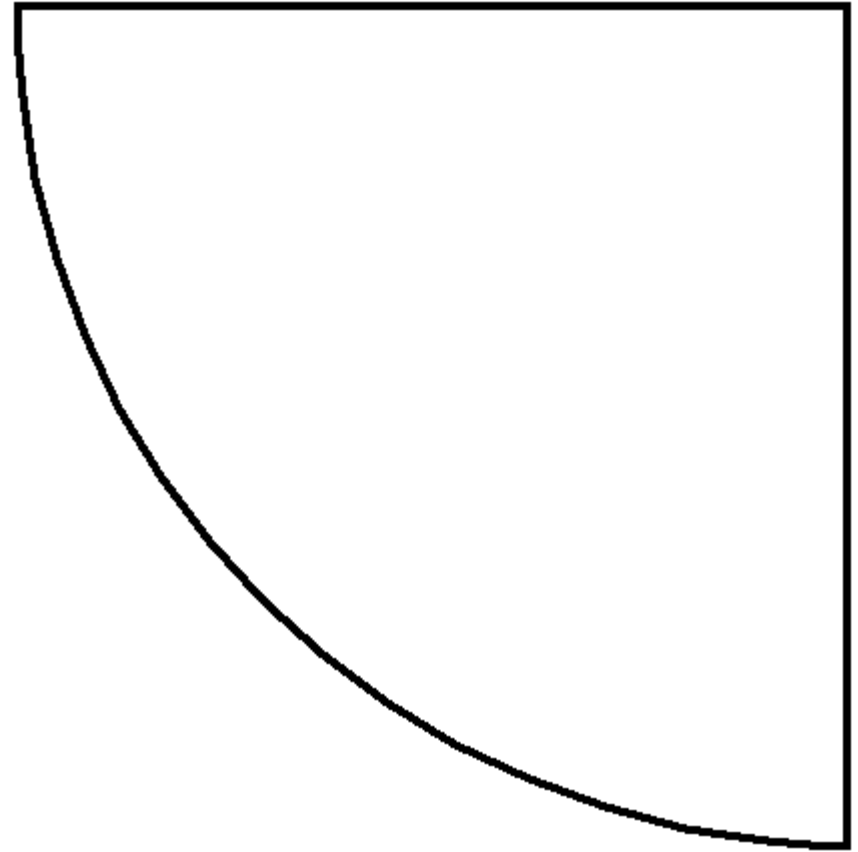
# What's in a name?

**Santa Claus, St. Nick, Papa Noel, Kris Kringle...**



There are a lot of different names given to the man (or men, or in some countries, even elves!) who brings gifts & presents to children on Christmas.

For those who celebrate Christmas in America, Santa Claus comes on December 24th with his reindeer and sleigh. In Germany, St. Nicholas brings gifts to children on his saint day December 5th, but the *Christkindl*, or Christ child, delivers presents on Christmas Eve. Children in France leave their shoes (not stockings) by the fireplace so that Pere Noel, or Father Christmas, may fill them with toys. The Three Wise Men leave gifts for boys and girls in Spain, and Norwegian children believe an elf delivers their presents!



This is the shape you'll want to draw on your piece of paper. Cones can be any shape or size and you can decorate your ornament with stickers, markers, glitter, or different pictures!



# Danish Cone Ornament

**In Denmark, families decorate their Christmas trees with paper cones filled with little trinkets or candies.**



Cones can be cut from plain colored paper or from greeting cards. To create, draw an arc onto a corner of the construction paper or card. Using a pair of scissors, cut inside the line. Roll the paper into a cone and staple; reinforce with tape along the inside seam. You can punch holes in the sides and tie ribbon or string so they can hang from the tree's branches.

## Tin Can Santa

This is a great craft idea that reuses a soup can (be careful of sharp edges! This is a great craft for kids & adults to do together!

### Materials:

1 empty, clean metal can  
White, peach and pink acrylic paint  
Medium pink pom pom  
2 small wiggle eyes  
Cotton balls  
6-8 medium white or silver sparkle pom poms  
1 sheet red glitter felt  
2" wide x 8" long strip of white glitter felt  
White craft glue  
Hot glue gun



1. Paint entire can with white paint.
2. Paint a section in the front of the can peach (or whatever skin tone color you like) for the face.
3. Take one cotton ball and stretch it out so that fits all the way around the rim of the can. Glue in place about 1/2" below the rim. This is Santa's hair.
4. Lay strip of white glitter felt on the table. With hot glue gun, fold over edges and tack in place on both sides. This will create a thick and smooth brim for Santa's hat that will not show any uneven cutting lines. Set aside.
5. Position the red glitter felt around the top of the can, above the hair (stretched cotton ball). Glue in place and let dry. You will finish Santa's red hat in a later step.
6. Meanwhile, glue the white felt in place over the top of the red felt and the cotton to form the brim of Santa's hat.
7. Using white craft glue, add Santa's beard by gluing cotton balls all around the can, leaving enough room open for his face.
8. To complete Santa's red hat, tuck the red felt into a cone shape, using hot glue to tack in place if you like. Fold felt over the side of the can and hot glue to the side.
9. Hot glue the silver or white glitter pom poms to the end of the red felt.
10. Use an extra cotton ball to dab on the cheeks, using a small amount of pink paint.
11. Glue the pink pom pom on for the nose & wiggle eyes in place.

# Celebrating Kwanzaa



Kwanzaa is a non-religious African American holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture. It first observed in 1966.

Today, many people celebrate Kwanzaa and honor their African roots, customs, and traditions. Kwanzaa is Swahili for “first fruits.” Kwanzaa combines different harvest celebrations, and while different families honor the holiday in their own way, celebrations can include songs, storytelling, and dance. There are also seven symbols of Kwanzaa, and they are: Mazao (crops), the Mkeka placemat, Vibunzi (ear of corn), Mishumaa Saba (the seven candles), the Kinara (candle holder), the Unity Cup, and Ziwadi (gifts).

# Happy Boxing Day!

Boxing Day, celebrated in England, is December 26th, the day after Christmas. In the past, people rewarded their servants with gifts of money enclosed inside special boxes that were opened on the day after Christmas. Today, this public holiday is still celebrated, but the “Christmas boxes” are given to community workers, such as mail carriers.



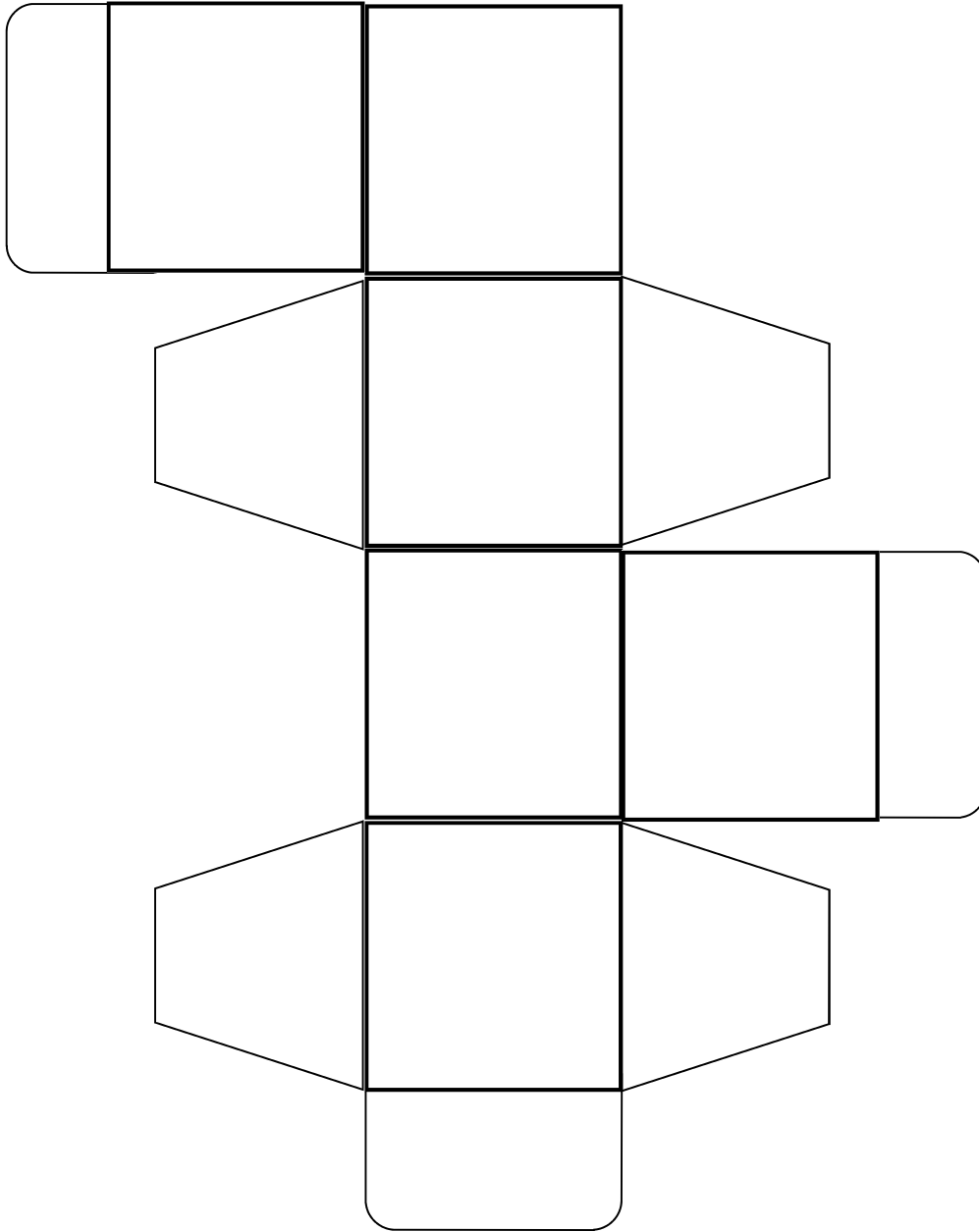
## Gift Box

Celebrate Boxing Day by making your own box!

1. Decorate your box with different markers, stickers, and/or pictures. Just remember to make sure you don't put your favorite stickers on the bottom of the box! You can also build the box before you decorate!
2. Cut around the outside lines and fold on all the internal (inside lines). Tape where necessary to close. Fold over the tabs & close the ends.



If you don't want to cut this page, you can trace it onto tracing paper and then cut it out to draw your pattern page onto sturdy construction paper.



## Make your own Kwanzaa **Mkeka**!

A Mkeka is a straw or African textile (fabric) mat that symbolizes the foundation in which knowledge and understanding are built. It also symbolizes the foundation or beliefs people build for themselves and their families.

### What You'll Need

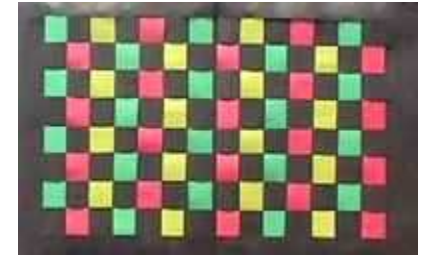
3 or 4 sheets of 9x12" construction paper (Kwanzaa colors are black, red, green, and sometimes yellow)

Ruler

Pencil

Scissors

Glue or tape



### How You'll Make it

1. Fold black sheet of paper in half lengthwise
2. Cut slits in paper. Take ruler and place it next to the fold. Using a pencil, mark along the fold every inch.
3. Cut through both thicknesses of paper along the pencil lines from the fold to about 1 inch from the unfolded edges. Unfold the sheet and set aside.
4. Make strips for weaving by cutting lengths of the other sheets of construction paper
5. Weave strips through the black paper. Remember—over, under, over, under!
6. Secure ends strips by gluing or taping the ends to the under side of the construction paper.



**Above:** A few gingerbread people—you can really get creative with different foods as decorations, including frosting & lots of colored candies!



**Left:** Gingerbread houses are also really popular to make around this time of year. Again, you can use your imagination and decorate your house with all sorts of different things!

## Make a Dreidel Magnet

10 Popsicle sticks

Tacky glue

Cardboard

Scissors

Paint & paintbrush, or markers

One adhesive magnet

1. Lay the Popsicle sticks out as illustrated on the cardboard.
2. Glue them down and cut the cardboard around the sticks.
3. Cut one stick in half, use it to make a handle on the top of the dreidel.
4. Paint two of the dreidel symbols.
5. Stick the magnet onto the back of the cardboard.

**This is what your magnet will look like!**

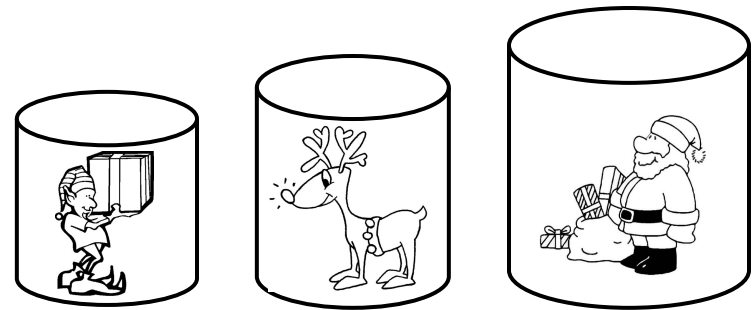


# Russian Matryoshka Dolls

A traditional Christmas gift in Russia is a *Matryoshka* doll. The outer doll is opened to reveal smaller dolls inside. Using recycled materials, you can make your own set of *Matryoshka* dolls!



A set of Russian *Matryoshka* dolls.



1. Cover each tin can with a piece of plain construction paper. Tape or glue it in place.
2. Place the cans with the open end down. On each can, use a pencil to design a different person, animal, or Christmas object.
3. Use markers, fabric, or other materials to fill in all the details. Be sure the designs aren't too thick—each can should fit in the next, larger can.



# Hanukkah Traditions



Hanukkah, also called the “Festival of Lights,” is an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrating the rededication of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem more than 2,200 years ago.

Many traditions accompany this holiday, including lighting the **menorah**, playing with **dreidels**, and celebrating with special foods like potato **latkes**.

## Potato Latkes

makes about 10 latkes

### Ingredients

- 4 medium potatoes (about 1-1/2 pounds)
- 3 tablespoons rendered chicken fat (schmaltz)
- 2 slightly beaten eggs
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- Sour cream (optional)
- Applesauce (optional)

### Directions

Peel and finely shred potatoes. In a mixing bowl combine potatoes with chicken fat, eggs, garlic, and salt. Using 1/3 cup mixture for each latke, press mixture into patties about the size of the palm of your hand, squeezing out excess liquid.

In a large skillet heat chicken fat over medium-high heat. Carefully slide patties into hot fat.

Cook over medium-high heat about 2 minutes or until latkes are golden brown, turning once.

Repeat with remaining batter. Add additional fat during cooking, as needed. If necessary, reduce heat to medium to prevent overbrowning. Drain on paper towels and keep warm. Serve with sour cream or other toppings, if desired.

# German Gingerbread

The Germans originated the traditional Christmas gingerbread house and figures.

"Lebkuchen" is the German word for Gingerbread, which was brought to America by monks around the 1850s.

There are many books and stories about gingerbread men, girls, and even houses, including The Gingerbread Man and even Hansel & Gretel!

## Gingerbread Cookies

18-24 cookies

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 c. molasses
- 3 3/4 c. all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting work surface
- 2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. freshly grated Nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Icing, decorations

### Directions

Cream the sugar & butter until thoroughly combined. Add the eggs & molasses and mix until combined. Sift together the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture and combine with a spoon or spatula. Remove the dough from the bowl and wrap in plastic wrap; place in the refrigerator until first, about 1 hour. Preheat the oven 350 degrees F. Allow the dough to sit at room temperature for about 15 minutes. Take about 1/2 cup of dough at a time and roll onto a floured board until about 1/8-inch thick. Cut out with gingerbread boy and girl cookie cutters. You can re-roll the scraps. Using a spatula, transfer the cookies from the board to the prepared cookie sheets. Bake for 10 minutes, until just beginning to brown at the edges. Transfer to wire racks to cool. Decorate when completely cooled.