



Christmas Children Crafts

Foam Gingerbread Man Ornament

You can make these little gingerbread men from a variety of materials; we used craft foam as a base, but the pattern would work equally well with felt or card stock.

If you wanted to make a lot of gingerbread men to use as gift tags, I would suggest cutting them out of a manila folder.

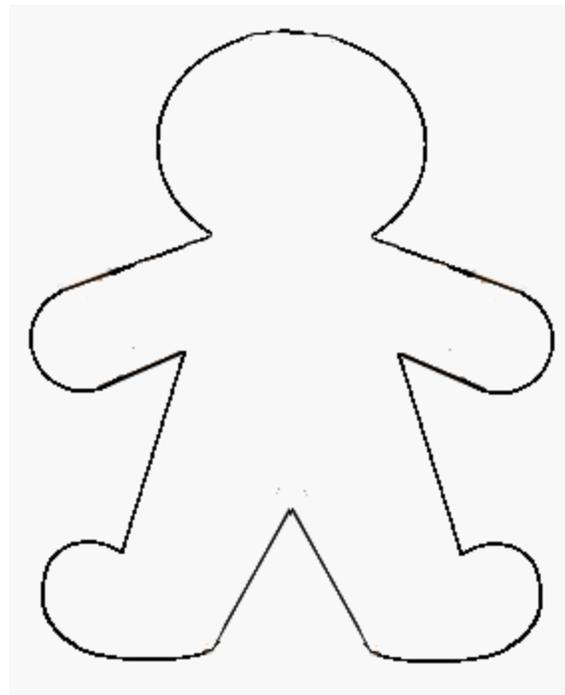
To make the printable gingerbread man pattern into a long lasting template, print it on card stock, or print and trace onto cereal cardboard before cutting out.

Supplies:

- Gingerbread man printable pattern (right)
- Craft foam, manila file folder, felt, or card stock
- Foam bow or thin ribbon to tie a bow
- Small amount of embroidery floss thread or gold cord to make the hanger
- Scissors
- Pencil with eraser
- White glue
- Dimensional or fabric paint
- Paper punch and red paper to make small, round buttons (or use real buttons)
- Buttons, bows etc.
- Tapestry needle with large eye

What You Do:

1. Print and cut out the [Gingerbread Man Pattern](#).



2. Place the pattern onto the material that you are using as a base, trace around it and cut out the ornament shape.
3. Decorate the gingerbread man as you wish; we used white paint to make wavy lines on the arms and legs. Paint on two simple dots for eyes. The mouth can be done in white or red paint, or you could draw it on with pen or marker.
4. Use white glue to attach a foam bow shape, or tie a bow from a small piece of ribbon placed around the gingerbread man's neck.
5. Glue on the buttons.
6. Thread needle with a small length of embroidery floss or gold cord and draw it through the top of the ornament. Remove the needle and tie ends of thread together to finish.

Q-Tip Snowflake

Equipment Needed:

- Elmer's Glue, 1 small bottle per person
- Q-tips, 30-60 per person, or more, depending on the number and size of snowflakes you want to make.
- Waxed paper, one 18 inch sheet per snowflake
- Glitter, optional (glitter glue also lends a neat effect)



How to make it:

Spread a sheet of waxed paper on the table surface. This will be your working space. Using Q-tips, design a snowflake on the waxed paper. Q-tips may be bent, broken in two, or used whole for different effects. In general, the end with the cotton swab should create a corner with a neighboring swab.

An interesting fact about snow crystals is that they are made up of water molecules frozen to ice in a hexagonal lattice formation, which accounts for their six-fold symmetry. The best-looking, most accurate snowflakes, therefore, are six sided,

although three-sided works well too. Experiment by arranging three or six Q-tips in a sunburst fashion, with one end meeting in the middle. These will be your stems. Using more Q-tip pieces, repeat patterns between the stems. Keep in mind that every Q-tip must be connected to the whole.

When you have finished your snowflake design, squeeze a puddle of glue over each joint. Do not skimp! Use lots of glue. A large puddle is needed to connect Q-tips together. Don't worry if the puddle spreads and loses shape—it will harden clear and contribute to the overall crystalline effect of the snowflake. For a sparkly effect, shake the snowflake with glitter before the glue dries.

Set the snowflake on the waxed paper aside until the glue dries. This will take several hours, and maybe even overnight. Continue making more snowflakes!

When the glue has dried completely, carefully pull the snowflake away from the waxed paper. If an insufficient amount of glue was used to hold the Q-tips together, simply return the snowflake to the waxed paper and cover with more glue. You will have to wait again for the glue to dry. Then remove the snowflake from the waxed paper. Use clear fishing line to hang from the ceiling. An instant blizzard! Make some hot chocolate and enjoy!

Bottle Cap Christmas Ornament

Recycle soda bottle caps and make a great Christmas tree trim in this free Christmas craft project. It's easy, fun to do, and you'll get great results while benefitting the Earth by recycling! All in all, a good Christmas art project for the youth group.

Supplies:

- 7 Soda bottle caps
- Felt
- 6 pompoms or cotton balls to fit on top of the bottle caps
- 1 pompom or cotton ball for the center (can be same color as the rest of the pompoms or a contrasting color)
- Pretty 1 ¼ inch wide ribbon
- String of pearls
- Fine glitter
- String or thin ribbon for hanger
- Crafting tools: glue, scissors, a pencil



How to make it:

1. Place one bottle cap on your work surface to use as the center of the ornament. Glue the other caps all around it, with each one being glued to the center cap and then to the caps beside it. When you are finished, it should look a little like a flower.



2. Trace a pencil line around the edge of the bottle caps onto a piece of felt then cut out the flower shape, cutting just inside the pencil line. Glue the felt to the back of the caps.

3. Glue on the pompoms or cotton balls.

4. Glue on a loop of string or ribbon to use as a hanger.

5. Starting at the top, near the hanger, begin gluing the ribbon all around the flower shape. Make sure that you center the ribbon as you work, so it overhangs both the front and the back sides of the caps just a little bit.

6. Glue a string of pearls down the center of the ribbon.

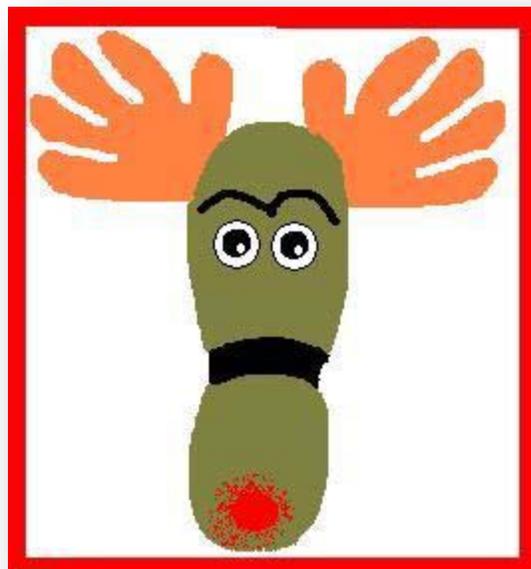
7. Add some swirls of glue on top of the pompoms or cotton balls and sprinkle with fine glitter. Tap off the excess. And there you go, a pretty Christmas ornament made from recycled bottle caps - but you'd never guess, now would you? Enjoy!

Reindeer Handprint

Here's a nice group activity for younger kids. Based on hand prints and foot prints that are traced, cut and glued in place, this Christmas craft is easy to do with pleasing results.

Supplies:

- Brown construction paper, for the reindeer's face
- Yellow or gold construction paper, for the antlers
- White, green or red construction paper, or poster paper, as the base page



- Red pom pom or small wad of red tissue paper
- Black and white crayons or markers, or google eyes
- School glue or glue sticks

How to make it:

1. First have the children trace around their shoe on brown construction paper and cut out the shape.
2. Next, have the children trace around both their hands, onto yellow or gold construction paper. Cut these shapes out.
3. Glue the shoe shape on another piece of construction or poster paper, for the face of the reindeer. Glue the hands on as antlers.
4. Glue on a red pom pom or a ball of red tissue paper as the reindeer's nose, and either draw on eyes or glue on google eyes.
5. Optional: color in black eyebrows and a nose band.
6. Have the children write their names on the back of their reindeer art and display on the walls or send home for Mom to display on the fridge.

Merry Christmas!

