

CHRISTMAS TREE

This is a useful activity which can be used both as an individual or whole class craft activity.

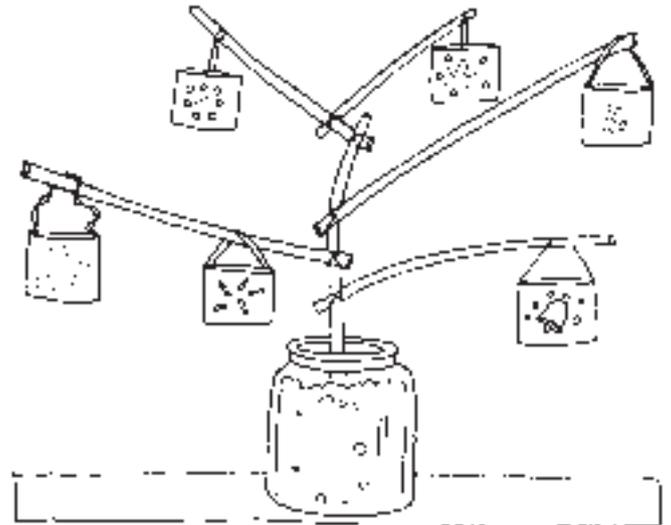
Working individually, children will be able to create an object and to give it as a present to their friends or family. As a class activity, each child will have to bring in a small present, which can be a candy or a small puppet, and wait until a friend chooses it.

What you need:

- some wooden sticks
- a jam jar filled with soil
- cardboard in different colours
- scissors
- stapler
- ribbon
- glue
- felt-tip pens
- glitter, beads and whatever you want to add
- a small gift from each child

What you do:

Use the ribbon to tie the wooden sticks together. Stick the tree in the jar with soil. Ask children to cut small rectangles (about 4x5 cm) from two different coloured pieces of cardboard. Children must staple together the two pieces to make a pocket and can then decorate the pocket with felt-tip pens, beads or by glueing glitter on it. Each child must bring in a small present that will be put inside the cardboard pocket. Make a small hole in each pocket and hang them all with a long coloured ribbon onto the tree you have made with the wooden sticks. On the last day of school before Christmas break, ask each child to take a pocket from the tree (not the one they have made!).



ADVENT TREE

Make an Advent tree. Follow the instructions for the Christmas tree but write the numbers from 1 to 24 on the cardboard pockets. Prepare everything by the end of November and then every morning ask a different child to take a pocket and open it. On some days, more than one pocket should be opened so that the final pocket is opened on the last day of term.

Another possibility is to help the children prepare, on small pieces of paper or cardboard, a Christmas wish and a drawing. On the first day of December, bring in a small tree made of wooden sticks tied together and then every morning ask a different child to hang his/her wishing card on the tree.

