

# Marshall County Museum

## HOLIDAY TREE-DITIONS



### READ:

Families often have traditions around the holidays. Sometimes those traditions center around holiday decorations. Did you know that the practice of putting up a Christmas tree goes back to Germany about 500 years ago? The people brought in evergreen trees and added lighted candles to the branches - WHOA! Fire hazard!

Then about 175 years ago, Britain's Queen Victoria made having a Christmas tree popular in Great Britain. Can you find Great Britain on a map of the world? Having a Christmas tree quickly became the fashion in America as well, since many Americans traced their family history to Great Britain. Check out more history of Christmas trees at

<https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas-trees>.

### DO:

- ◆ Many times, holiday decorations are handed down from generation to generation. Do you have a favorite tree ornament or table decoration or something else? (Examples: A door wreath that your mom made in school, or an ornament that was brought over from a foreign country.) If you do, find out more about your favorite item by interviewing someone who knows the story behind it. Ask the following questions and record your answers on the NOTES page.
  - \* Where did it come from?
  - \* How did we get it?
  - \* How old is it?
  - \* Why do I like it?
- ◆ Find out the answers to these questions and more . Write down what you learn on Page 2 and draw or take a picture of the object.
- ◆ See Page 3 to make a Christmas tree ornament of your own and then hang it on your family's tree or somewhere else in your house.
- ◆ Have a friend or adult take a picture of you with your favorite decoration and post it along with its story on Social Media using the hashtag #MCMuseumFromHome.

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## NOTES

Draw a picture of your favorite holiday decoration:

Where did it come from? \_\_\_\_\_

How did our family get it? \_\_\_\_\_

How old is the decoration? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do I like it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Design a holiday decoration that you DON'T have. Think about using old toys or natural elements like pine cones or holiday craft items to make something completely original. Use this space to plan it:

# HOLIDAY TREE-DITIONS HOW-TO:

1. Cut out the Christmas tree and use it just as it is. Or, use it to trace onto other types of paper, like colorful wrapping paper or craft paper, then cut it out.
2. Decorate your tree using markers, crayons, stickers or other items.
3. Fold the Christmas tree evenly like a fan, starting at the bottom and working your way up. (See picture.)
4. While the tree is still folded, use the paper punch to put a hole right in the center of the fold. This step might be hard - try punching it one half at a time.
5. Put the straw through the hole and then use your fingers to expand the folds.
6. Cut out the star and glue it to the top.
7. Glue a loop of ribbon to the back of the star for a hanger.



**Approximate time:** One hour

**Materials:**

- Scissors
- Craft paper (optional)
- Markers, crayons, stickers or other items to decorate the tree
- Glue
- Paper punch
- A drinking straw
- Six-inch piece of ribbon

