

## Craft Corner

### Snowman Decoration

#### Supplies:

- Tube sock with red stripes at the top
- 18 inches red ribbon, ¼ inch wide
- 1 red puff ball
- 2 google eyes
- 5 black buttons
- Roll of toilet paper
- 4-inch Styrofoam ball



#### Directions:

Turn the sock inside out. Stuff the roll of toilet paper into the sock, then put in the Styrofoam ball. Turn the top of the sock back right-side out and fold it over the ball to make a hat. Tie the ribbon around the snowman's neck. Tie it into a double-knot and then a bow. Use glue (hot glue works best) to glue on the eyes, puff ball nose, and buttons as shown in the picture above. If you're making this craft with a child, an alternative to hot glue is Tacky glue.

This cute, easy to make snowman makes a great gift that kids can make!

*We have over 80 ready to make crafts for kids at [www.Calliope-Creations.com](http://www.Calliope-Creations.com)*

## Party Picks

### Tree Decorating Party

In our house we decorate several Christmas trees every year, each with a different theme. One fun tree to try is a family theme with all homemade decorations. Try some of these ideas:

1. Strings of Popcorn or Cranberries. If you have young children, a safe variation is to use yarn and cereal such as Froot Loops®. Simply wrap masking tape around the end of the yarn to make a "needle" and thread on the cereal. Children as young as 2 years old can usually thread the cereal.
2. Paper Chains. Cut one-inch wide strips of colored paper. Glue one strip into a loop. Then thread another strip into the center before gluing it into a loop. You can also make chains with 25 loops and use them as advent calendars to count down to Christmas. Each day you can tear off one more loop of the chain.
3. Construction Paper Ornaments. Cut out construction paper in a variety of different shapes. You might want to try tracing Christmas cookie cutters. Decorate using markers, crayons, paint, glitter, etc. Punch a hole at the top and hang with a ribbon loop.

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## Cards for All Occasions

### Christmas Trees with Snowman Card



Start with White Textured, 5 1/2" x 4 1/4" Fold Over Card. To make the snow drifts at the bottom of the card, lay your paper on top of the oval Snowman template with the finished side of your paper facing up. Trace sections of the oval edge of the template to make the drifts, moving the template occasionally and even overlapping, to make the pattern as shown on the card. Be sure to leave one drift wide enough to add the small Snowman. To complete your card, flip your paper over so the

finished side of the paper is facing down. Trace the Happy Holidays at the top of the card. Make sure you place the template upside down on the light source. An align-a-card makes it easier to center the words. Then trace the Trees with Snow template, moving the paper occasionally to add as many trees and as much snow as desired. Be careful not to put the trees in a snowdrift or the snow on top of the Happy Holidays. Add the Snowman to the snowdrift then add color. For the Trees use green chalk and shade the center with dark green. Add glitter in a zig-zag pattern down the center of the trees. Use a metallic silver pen to accent the Happy Holidays lettering.

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All templates and supplies used to make this card are available through our online store at [www.Calliope-Creations.com](http://www.Calliope-Creations.com). Search for "Christmas Trees with Snowman Card".

*For more card ideas visit our Art Gallery at [www.Calliope-Creations.com](http://www.Calliope-Creations.com).*

## ♪ Musical Road Trip Game

We seem to spend a lot of time in the car during the holidays: shopping trips, traveling to visit people, leisurely drives to see the Christmas lights, or even long, cross-country road trips. A game that our family has always enjoyed involves Christmas carols. Each person takes a turn and tries to think of a Christmas carol, then sings the first line or a line from the chorus out loud. The catch is that no carol can be sung twice during the course of the game. This sounds pretty easy, but we've found that we run through the simple ones like "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls" pretty quickly. This game is a great way to add some fun Christmas flavor to any outing!

## To Subscribe:

Calliope Times™ is a free monthly newsletter with tips and ideas for you and your family. To subscribe, sign the Guest Book on our web page at [www.Calliope-Creations.com](http://www.Calliope-Creations.com).

## Family Fun for Everyone

### Microwave Cooked Dough Ornaments

#### Ingredients:

4 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
1 1/2 cups water

#### Directions:

Mix together all ingredients and knead until smooth. Roll out and cut into shapes using cookie cutters or a plastic knife. Microwave for 8-15 minutes until firm. CAUTION: DOUGH WILL BE VERY HOT WHEN IT COMES OUT OF THE MICROWAVE. ADULT SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED WITH THIS PROJECT.

Shapes can be painted once cooled. To make Christmas ornaments, poke a small hole in the dough before cooking. Once painted, tie a ribbon loop and hang on the tree.

*Check out other free recipes like this one at [www.Calliope-Creations.com](http://www.Calliope-Creations.com) under Free Family Recipes.*

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### Quick Quotes:

“May your days be merry and bright,  
And may all your Christmases be white.”  
- Irving Berlin, “White Christmas”



## Memory Lane

### Holiday Scrapbook

During a family gathering this year, try making a holiday scrapbook. In advance, gather a scrapbook, camera, and lots of decorating tools such as colored pencils, embossing stencils, glitter, etc. On the big day, take lots of pictures. With a digital or Polaroid camera, you can add the pictures to the scrapbook before the day is over. Film that needs developed can be added later. Everyone can help create scrapbook pages by drawing pictures, writing stories, and adding humorous notes and memories. The finished scrapbook will be a treasure your family can enjoy for years to come.

*For a full range of brass embossing stencils and other acid free scrapbooking supplies, visit us online at [www.Calliope-Creations.com](http://www.Calliope-Creations.com).*

## The Spice of Life

### Simple, Enjoyable Holidays

By Luisa Spriggs

Much has been written on celebrating the holidays without making yourself crazed. For me, two words come to mind: simple and enjoyable. Whatever you do, keep it simple and have fun. There are ways you can accomplish this with minimal effort and lots of pleasure. Plan ahead (it's not too late), make a list, budget, pay with cash, meditate, live in the now, focus on one thing at a time, and laugh a lot. Most importantly, stop and breathe. (You may need to do this fairly often.) Now, go start enjoying yourself with family and friends. Maybe we should rename Holidays to Happy Days and celebrate all year, every year. Enjoy!

## A Note From Our Founders

We just wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season filled with family and the things that are most important to you.

From our family to yours,  
Seasons' Greetings!



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### Christmas Tree Party . . . Continued from Page 1

4. Red Hot Balls Ornaments. Open a paper clip into a "U" shape. Tie a 12-inch piece of yarn into a loop and thread it through the paper clip. Push the paper clip into a styrofoam ball; the loop will make a tree hanger. Glue red hot candies all over the ball.
5. Snowflakes. Cut white doilies into snowflake shapes. Press onto a sheet of clear contact paper. Sprinkle with glitter. Cover with a second sheet of contact paper. Cut around the outside of each snowflake. Punch a hole and tie a loop to hang.
6. Paper People Chains. Fold a strip of paper back and forth several times. Draw a person onto the top layer of paper making sure the hands and feet extend to the sides. Cut out the shape cutting through all the layers but being careful not to cut around the hands and feet where they touch the sides. In addition to traditional girl and boy shapes, try making gingerbread people and angels.
7. Baked Dough Ornaments. See our recipe in the Craft Corner section on the previous page.

*For great party ideas check out our Party Packs at [www.Calliope-Creations.com](http://www.Calliope-Creations.com).*