

Create your festive gifts

A home-made Christmas present is a lovely way to show you care.

Deciding what to give people for Christmas can be tricky. Just remember that a gift is a way to show someone that you care about them. It's not about how expensive it is but how well suited it is to the person receiving it. A home-made gift shows that you've really thought about the person – what they like, what they're interested in – and put time and effort into making something they'd enjoy. It could be a drawing, a funny poem or story about them, some delicious food or a pretty ornament.

In every issue, our How To page offers ideas for activities. You'll find many of them collected in our online activity hub (the web address is at the bottom of this page – ask an adult to

help you access it). There are lots of great gift ideas there, ranging from recipes for tasty treats to craft projects for making fun items. Here are four ideas for different ways you can create a Christmas gift.



TREE-MENDOUS

The Victorians began the tradition of placing gifts under or on the Christmas tree.



Cook something tasty

Find a recipe and make something delicious, but make sure it will keep until you give it to the person. Biscuits will keep for about a week if stored in an airtight container. Fudge, sweets and jam work well. Savoury ideas include biscuits for cheese or chutney. The activity hub has recipes for cornflake cookies and gingerbread mummies – which you could adapt into Santas with beards made of icing.

Craft something new

Try making a Christmas decoration. This could be as simple as painting a pine cone (see page 12) or you could cut festive shapes out of foil containers (see picture below). Use a biro to press in patterns and permanent markers to colour it in, then thread ribbon through a hole to hang. Other craft ideas on the activity hub include bookends or bookmarks for keen readers, and cute wool pompom bees for nature lovers.



Draw, paint or write

The hub has instructions for writing a winter's tale, a spooky story, a limerick (a short, funny poem) and lots more. When writing, keep whoever you're giving it to in mind. For example, you could make them the hero in a story. Do a painting or drawing of someone's pet or their favourite animal, flower or thing (perhaps they love bikes). Find out someone's favourite book or film and draw a film poster or a book cover.

Use what you have

Ask an adult to help you print out photos and stick them into a homemade card booklet to create an album. A stone from the garden can be turned into a paperweight by painting a colourful design onto it. Take plain paper and envelopes and create personalised stationery by using stencils or stamps. Collect toys you've grown out of and package them in a decorated shoebox for a younger child.



Head to theweekjunior.co.uk/activityhub for more crafts and recipes.

