

THE BEST PRESENT EVER



CHRISTMAS APPEAL SCHOOLS KIT



Vinnies Christmas Appeal



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

GIVE THE BEST PRESENT EVER!



You can help a
family put food
on the table
this Christmas.

GET INVOLVED THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL
Talk to your teachers or visit vinnies.org.au/getinvolved

Images and names have been changed to protect the privacy of the people we assist.

 **Vinnies Christmas Appeal**
 St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

HELP DELIVER THE BEST PRESENT EVER THIS CHRISTMAS

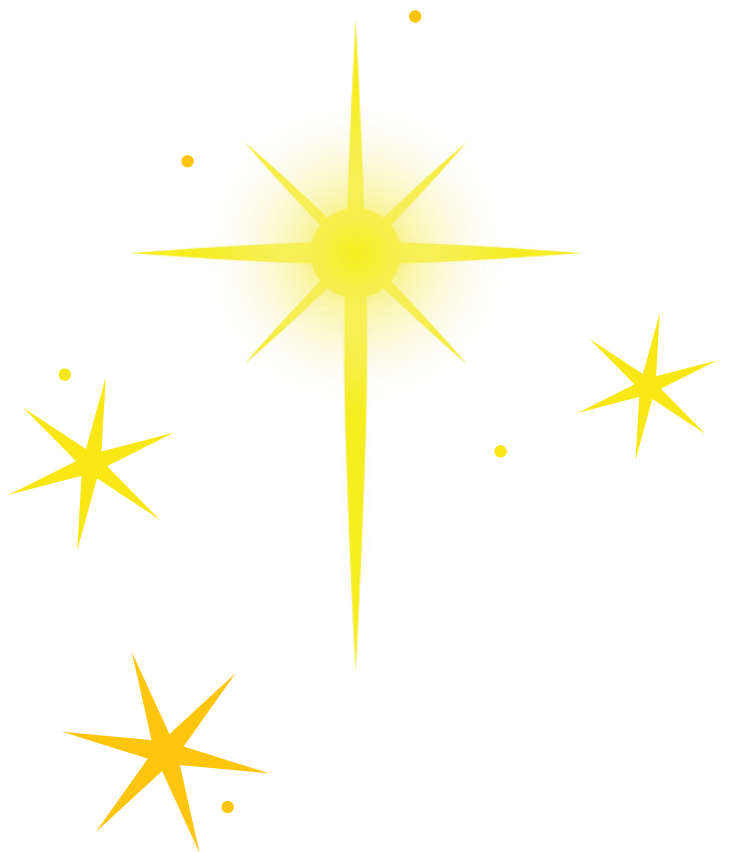
The Vinnies Christmas Appeal is all about bringing joy and festivity to families and individuals who may be in need of some extra support. For most of us, Christmas is a time of celebration with family and friends; the joy of exchanging gifts, making precious memories together and enjoying delicious Christmas treats to eat. However, for 2.2 million Australians, including families and 750,000 children living below the poverty line, Christmas can be a time when meeting their most basic needs, like putting food on the table or a place to call home, is a real struggle.

Before the school year winds up, we are again inviting you to join us in making this Christmas one filled with joy and happiness for families across Queensland. School communities are invited to donate goods which will be made into hampers, gifts to go under the Christmas tree, cards and letters of good tidings or gift vouchers and money.

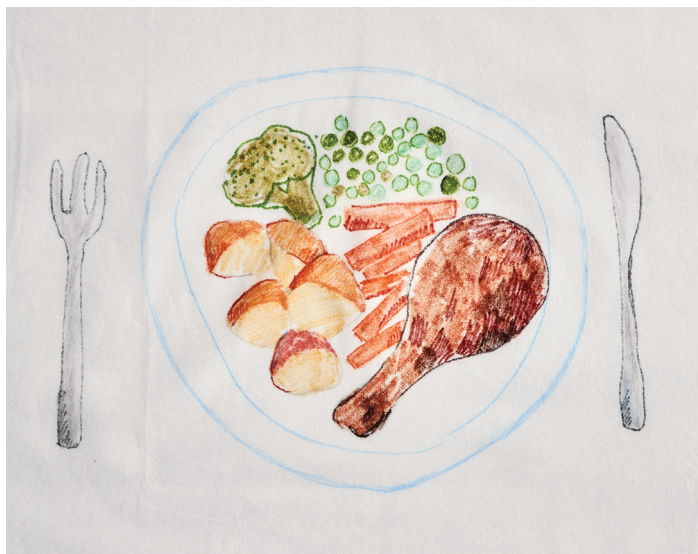
For schools who wish to participate, we recommend the Christmas Appeal runs in the first half of Term 4, with donations ready for collection between 18 November and 2 December 2019. We understand that not everyone may be able to contribute, but we thank you for thinking of us and the millions of Australians we provide support to when next you are able to give something.

For further information on donations, organising someone to speak at your assembly or certificates, please contact your local St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland representative (see page 11 for more details).

Your contribution to the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal will help to provide families, children and individuals with a Christmas filled with joy and Happiness.



CASE STUDY – SAM’S STORY



“For a couple of years, I haven’t been able to buy presents for Sam,” Laura said. “To be honest, it hurts. I don’t care about myself. I want my Sam to be happy. But right now I can’t even give him enough to eat.”

As many families begin their preparations for Christmas, parents like Laura are staring at a pile of unpaid bills, wondering how on earth they’re going to feed their children. For families living below the poverty line, Christmas is just adding financial stress and a sense of failure to their already difficult days.

At 11, Sam was old enough to know something was wrong. He saw his mum crying on the phone. He felt her increasing desperation as she tried to make the most of what little food they could afford.

Laura decided she had to go without food so her young son could eat. The first time Laura skipped a meal, she told Sam she wasn’t hungry. But he knew it wasn’t true. Sam knew his mum was going without, and it weighed heavily on him. It made him increasingly anxious. This is what often happens to children who live with food insecurity.

“Some days we don’t have enough to eat,” said Sam. “Mum would put food from her plate onto mine. Sometimes she just had a glass of water for dinner.”

No mother should have to watch her child go hungry in her own home – or be forced to starve herself so that her child can eat.

For growing children like Sam, food is critical. Not getting enough food can affect all aspects of their lives. Hunger impacts their ability to concentrate, and their energy levels – making them fall behind at school and even causing lasting damage to their health. The hunger a child like Sam feels can also impact on a child’s social development. Children in families living in poverty are more likely to socially isolate themselves and lack good relationship with friends. This is just another way that hunger saps the joy from childhood. For Sam, his hunger at school led to isolation from his classmates and made him feel like an outsider.

“I would sit inside while everyone else was playing and pretend I was reading. I just didn’t have the energy to run around outside.”

When the school noticed Sam was struggling with hunger, they sent him home with a loaf of bread and the number of a Vinnies volunteer. But after years of enduring abuse, Laura found it hard to trust anyone.

Finally, with almost nothing left to feed her son, Laura overcame her fear. She pulled out the crumpled piece of paper and dialled the number.

It was Robyn who answered. Robyn is a dedicated Vinnies volunteer, working closely with other families just like Laura’s.

“She sounded very weak,” Robyn said. “When she said she and her boy hadn’t eaten much lately we decided to get right ‘round there.”



Robyn and another Vinnies volunteer visited Laura and Sam. They brought a hamper of healthy food items including bread, vegetables, non-perishables and food vouchers to keep the family going.

“I would not have survived without Vinnies,” says Laura. “I had no idea how I was going to feed Sam. I was in despair. They came and they listened. It was such an amazing relief to know that someone really cared.”

The gift you give this Christmas will provide more than food, it will be the beginning of a new level of support and care for families at their most desperate times.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

SEE

Read Sam’s story.

THINK

How do you celebrate Christmas? What sort of food, presents and traditions does your family have at Christmas? What would your Christmas be like if you were in a situation like Sam’s family? What would you have to go without? What support would you have at Christmas time?

DO

Check the following pages to see what you can do to help people in need this Christmas.



HOW SCHOOLS CAN HELP

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Your local Conference members are helping in your community every week, so they best understand people’s needs. They also help distribute the donations from your school, so it’s important to check with them to see how you can best help this Christmas.

If you don’t have a point of contact for your local Vinnie’s representative, get in touch with your local Society Youth Engagement Officer (contact details page 11).

GIFT CARDS

Most children have a wish list each Christmas, but many families are unable to afford to put any gifts under the tree.

By allowing these parents to choose their own gift for their child, we can uphold their dignity and bring joy to Christmas morning.

Gift cards from local toy shops, cinemas, department stores or online vouchers give the parents plenty of options to choose from when selecting their child’s present.

Gift cards are an excellent idea for parents and other adults too.



FINANCIAL DONATIONS

One of the most valuable ways to show your support and contribute real change is by fundraising for Vinnies.

The more funds that are raised on our behalf, the more we can give a ‘hand-up’ to the more than 5,000 people who turn to Vinnies for help every single day.

\$80	Will buy school shoes for a child doing it tough.
\$100	A bed for a night for a mother and child experiencing homelessness.
\$200	A week’s worth of groceries for a family.
\$300	A safe place for someone to sleep for a week.



SHARE YOUR EFFORTS!

We would love to see what your school is doing to bring joy and happiness to families and individuals this Christmas. Share your pictures and stories with us directly via youth@svdpqld.org.au or tag us in your socials using the information below.



#VINNIESYOUTHQLD



#VINNIESYOUTHQLD

CHRISTMAS HAMPER IDEAS

A list of items has been provided as suggestions to help you prepare your hampers.

One way to organise the hampers is to allocate families to different homerooms or classes.

We recommend that students think about the needs of the family and adjust their hamper accordingly.

To uphold the dignity of those receiving the hamper, we ask that all food items are not due to expire for at least six months. It's also important to remember that your hamper must contain non-perishable food items.

If you would like to donate perishable food items such as chocolates or ham, it is best to donate a gift voucher so that families are able to select what they would like during the holiday season.

WHERE DO THE HAMPERS GO?

Hampers are delivered to families in your community who have recently called upon the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland.

DO NOT WANT TO DONATE HAMPERS?

To find out what other donations are suitable for families in your community, please contact your local Society Youth Engagement Officer (contact details on page 11)

HAMPERS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

- ☐ Christmas Pudding
- ☐ Long-life Custard
- ☐ Tinned Fruit
- ☐ Bon Bons
- ☐ Tinsel
- ☐ Christmas Decorations
- ☐ Tea / Coffee
- ☐ Shortbread

- ☐ Long Life Milk
- ☐ Milo
- ☐ Jelly
- ☐ Long Life Juice
- ☐ Christmas Cake
- ☐ Pancake Mix
- ☐ Cordial
- ☐ Lollies
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Fruit Mince Pies
- ☐ Biscuits-Sweet and Savoury
- ☐ Tinned Vegetables
- ☐ Pasta
- ☐ Pasta Sauce
- ☐ Spreads - Jam, Vegemite
- ☐ Gravy Mix
- ☐ Soup



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

Gifts for individuals and families can help make someone's wish come true this Christmas. Please consider gender and age appropriate gifts when purchasing your items.

BABIES AND TODDLERS

- ☐ Rattles
- ☐ Blankets / Comforters
- ☐ Building Blocks
- ☐ Bath Toys
- ☐ Soft Toys
- ☐ Musical Toys
- ☐ Storybooks

YOUNG CHILDREN 4-8 YEARS

- ☐ Sports Equipment
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Dolls
- ☐ Outdoor Games
- ☐ Board Games
- ☐ Toy Train / Car Sets
- ☐ Stationary
- ☐ Colouring in Books & Textas / Pencils

OLDER CHILDREN 9-12 YEARS

- ☐ Lego Blocks / Sets
- ☐ Accessories
- ☐ Card Games
- ☐ Science Workshop
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Activity Books
- ☐ Outdoor Equipment
- ☐ Magic Trick Set

- ☐ Dress Up Costumes
- ☐ Puzzles
- ☐ Shopping / Gift Vouchers

TEENAGERS

- ☐ Movie Vouchers
- ☐ Body Lotions
- ☐ Accessories (eg: hats, caps, jewellery)
- ☐ Deodorant Packs
- ☐ Shopping / Gift Vouchers
- ☐ Sports Equipment
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Perfume
- ☐ Makeup (eg: lip gloss, nail polish)
- ☐ Picture Frame
- ☐ Beach Towels
- ☐ Bags / Backpacks

ADULTS

- ☐ Books
- ☐ Perfume
- ☐ Cosmetic / Toiletry Bags
- ☐ Hampers
- ☐ Movie Vouchers
- ☐ Shopping / Gift Vouchers
- ☐ Fashion Accessories
- ☐ Deodorant Packs
- ☐ Photo Frames
- ☐ Wallet / Purse
- ☐ Homewares
- ☐ Vinnies Vouchers





**THIS YEAR, OUR SCHOOL IS HELPING THE VINNIES
CHRISTMAS APPEAL BY...**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOUR SCHOOL CONTACT IS





FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Vinnies Youth team in your local area:

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

Brisbane City / South

0407 172 685

anthony.forshaw@svdpqld.org.au

0407 836 237

daniel.ingledew@svdpqld.org.au

Western Brisbane

07 3716 1200

michael.cusack@svdpqld.org.au

0447 587 344

rachel.martin@svdpqld.org.au

Sunshine Coast and surrounding areas

0429 862 160

emily.cramb@svdpqld.org.au

0409 851 674

ben.mason@svdpqld.org.au

Gold Coast and surrounding areas

0417 924 608

blaize.vanniekerk@svdpqld.org.au

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

07 3010 1000

www.vinniesyouthqld.org.au

youth@svdpqld.org.au

REGIONAL QUEENSLAND

Toowoomba

07 4699 5222

julie.inskip@svdpqld.org.au

Rockhampton and surrounding areas

07 4927 8073

samara.thompson@svdpqld.org.au

Bundaberg and surrounding areas

0408 527 917

michael.siccama@svdpqld.org.au

Mackay

07 4957 3955

annamaria.cappello@svdpqld.org.au

Far North Queensland

07 4033 8300

davina.dansie@svdpqld.org.au

Townsville

07 4771 4077

mary.mcauliffe@svdpqld.org.au



[FACEBOOK.COM/VINNIESYOUTHQLD](https://www.facebook.com/vinniesyouthqld)



[INSTAGRAM.COM/VINNIESYOUTHQLD](https://www.instagram.com/vinniesyouthqld)



[YOUTUBE.COM/VINNIESAU](https://www.youtube.com/vinniesau)

ACTIVITY

HANDPRINT CHRISTMAS TREE

Brighten up your classroom with a Handprint Christmas Tree! At the end of the term, students can take their own hand decoration and hang them up home.

Instructions

1. Draw a handprint template on green paper and prepare one for each student to decorate in a Christmas theme.
2. Use a paper plate as the base for your tree.
3. Using a cardboard roll (from clingwrap, foil etc) painted brown for the tree trunk, cut two 3cm slits in either side at the top. At the bottom, cut 3 slits of 2cm and fold outwards. Tape the cardboard roll to the paper plate to allow your tree to stand.
4. Cut a triangular 'tree-shape' from thick cardboard. Slide this into the slits you cut at the top of your cardboard roll.
5. Attach students decorated handprint to triangle 'tree' in layers (use blu-tac if students wish to take theirs home).
5. Add a gold star to the top of your tree!

Materials

Cardboard paper roll

Thick cardboard 'triangle' tree

Paper plate

Green handprint cutouts

Scissors

Glue / blu-tac

Tape

Gold / yellow cardboard for star



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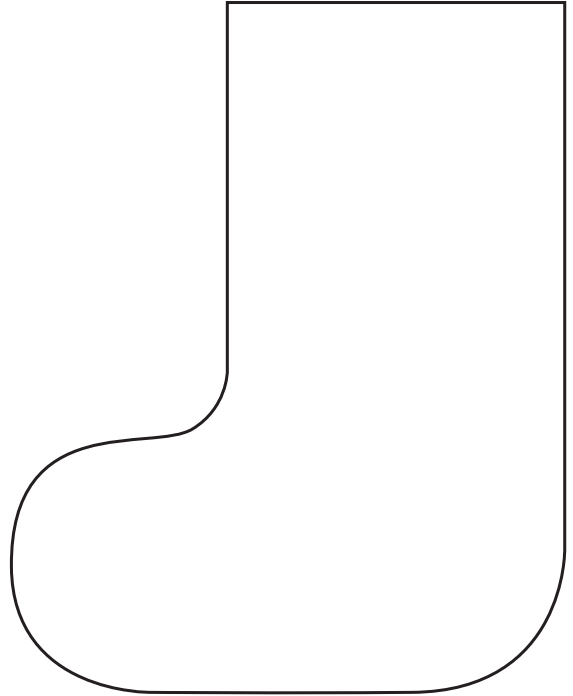
ACTIVITY

PAPER CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Make an easy Christmas stocking to hang up at home this Christmas season!

Instructions

1. Draw a template on paper and cut out to use as a pattern.
2. Prepare a sheet of construction paper that is at least twice the width of the stocking pattern and which must be at least as tall as the stocking pattern.
3. Fold the construction paper in half.
4. Using the stocking pattern, align the stocking's pattern straight edge with the construction paper's folded side. Trace the outline of the pattern onto the construction paper. While keeping your construction paper folded, cut out the stocking shape.
5. Unfold the stocking and apply glue along all edges of the stocking except the top edge. Fold the stocking again and press along the edges to glue the seams together.
6. Decorate your stocking with images from Christmas cards and wrap.
7. Punch a hole in the top corner of your stocking and loop a string or ribbon through the hole to make a handle.
8. Hang your paper stocking as a Christmas decoration around your classroom or at home!



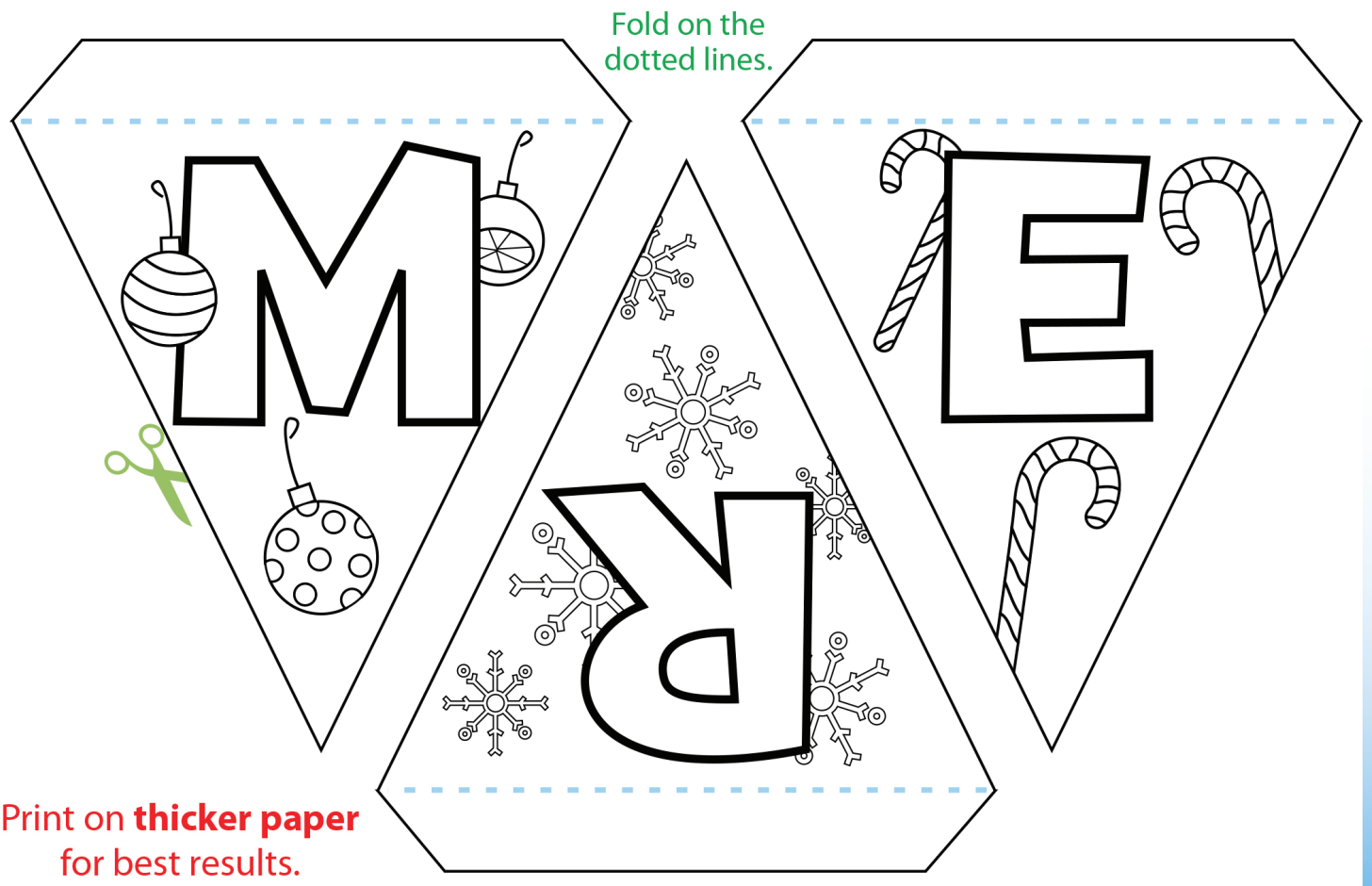
ACTIVITY

CHRISTMAS BANNER

Colour and make your own Christmas banner this holiday season.

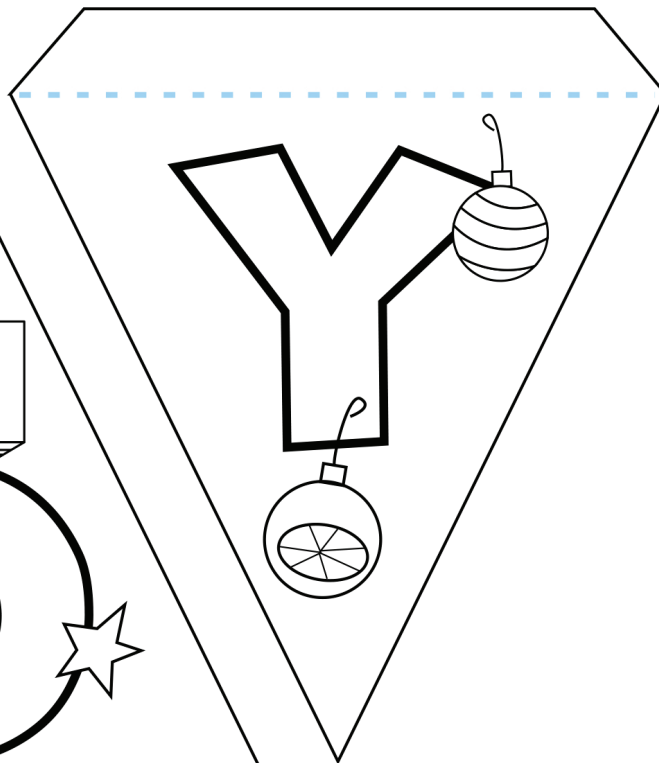
Instructions

1. Use the templates provided to create the pieces needed for your banner.
2. After the pieces have been coloured in, cut and fold the triangles.
3. Using a long piece of ribbon, string or wool, tape each triangle to the ribbon securely.
Make sure that each triangle cannot slide around.
4. Hang your banner up in your room, or across a window. You could even hang it up outside!

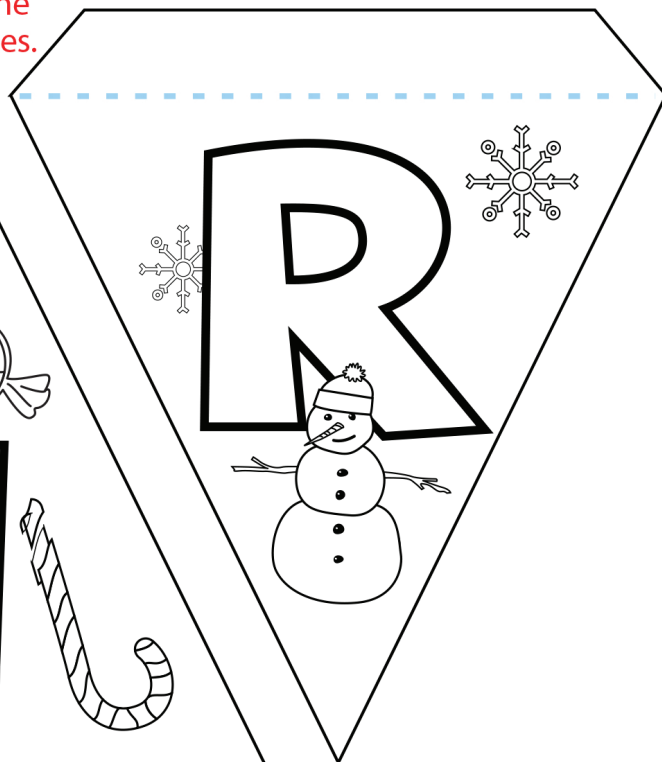
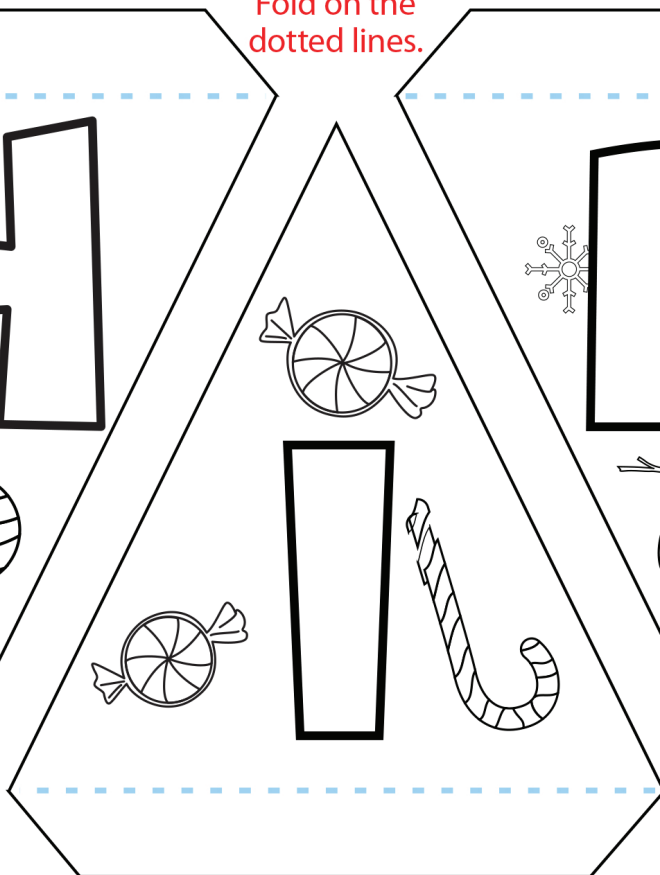
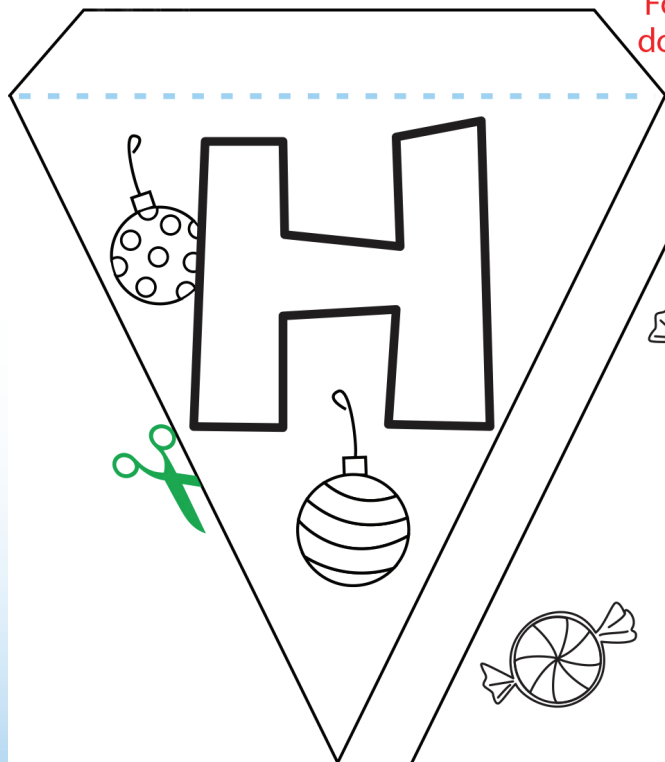


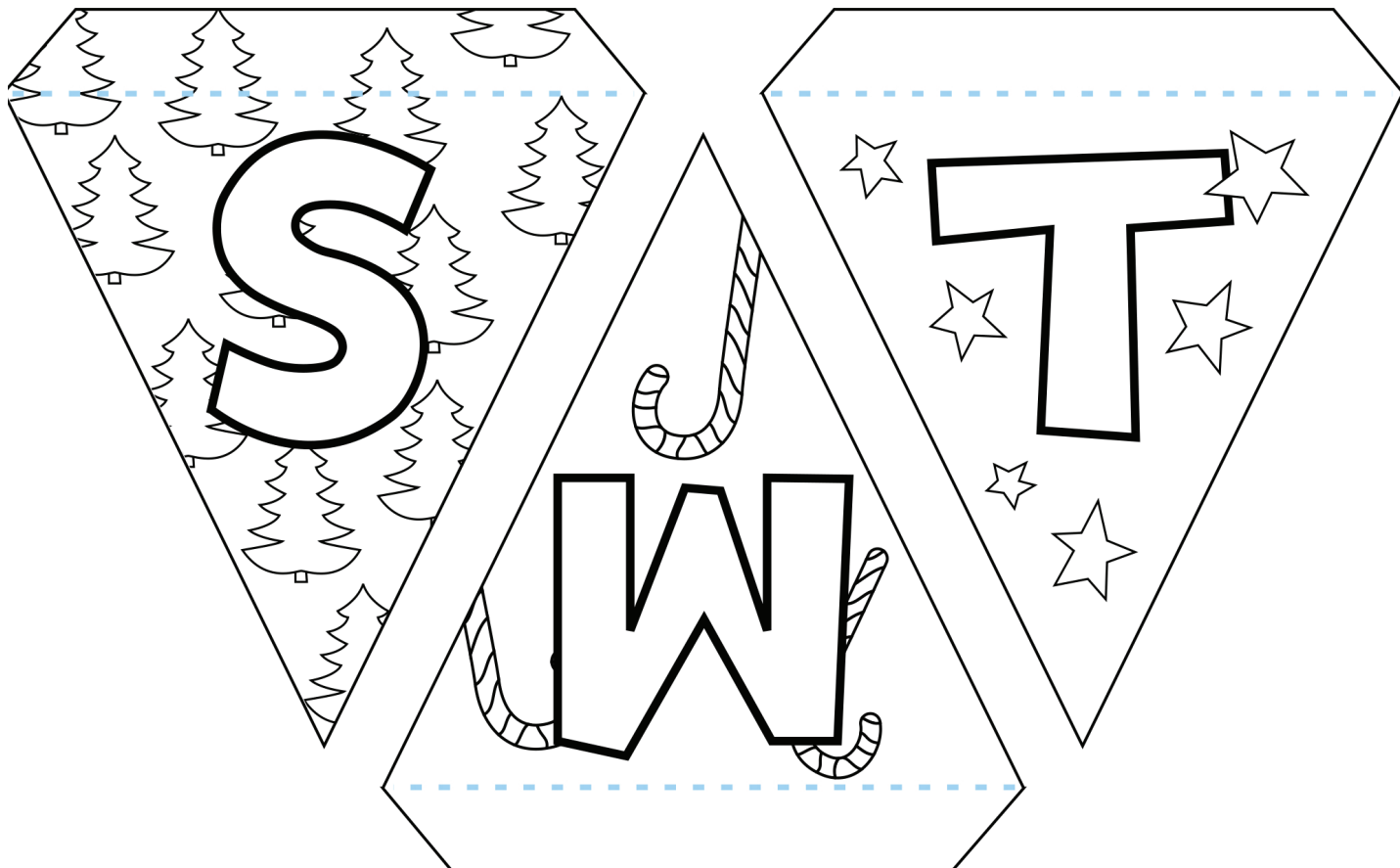
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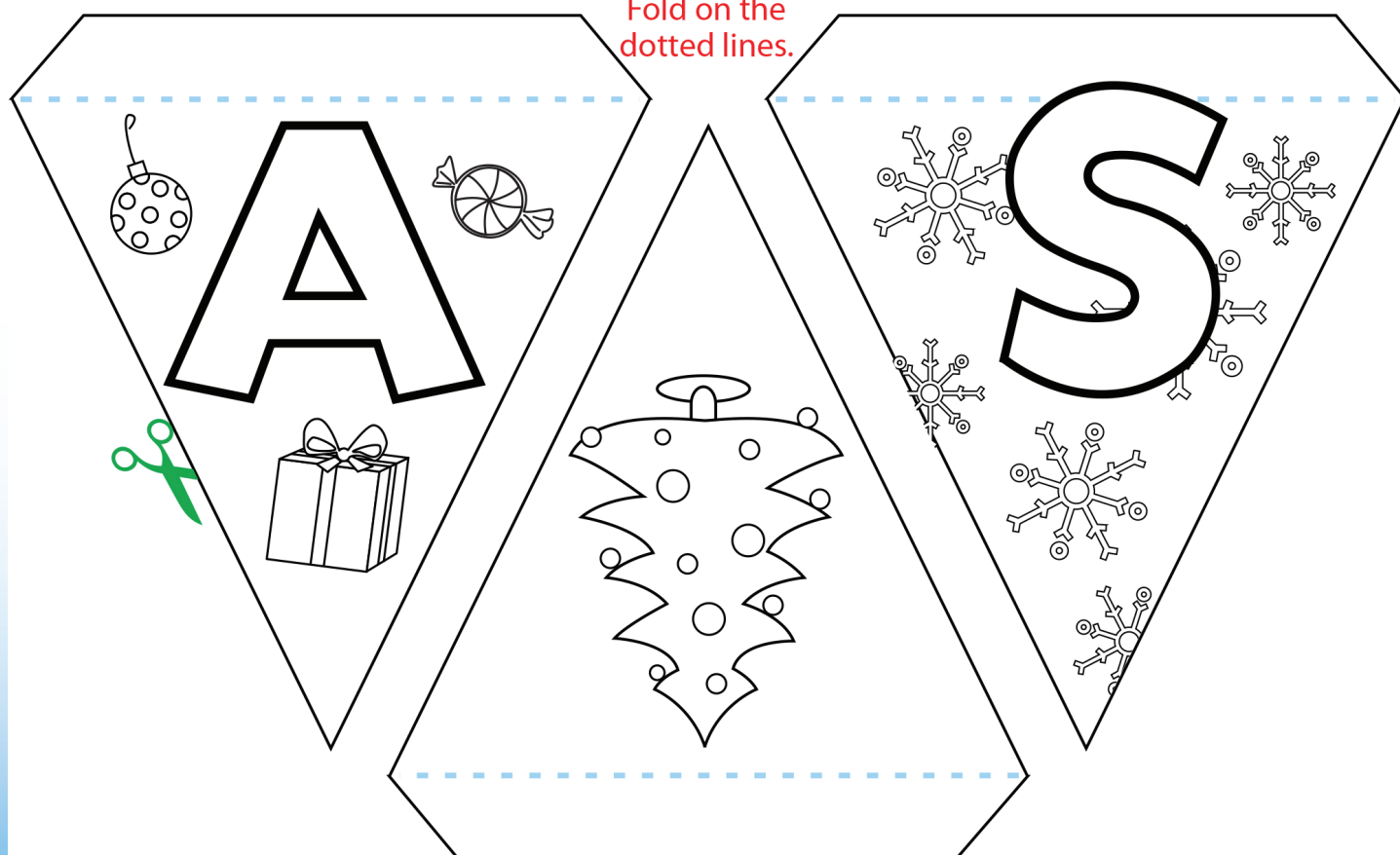


Fold on the
dotted lines.





Fold on the
dotted lines.



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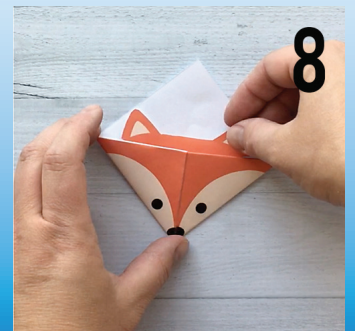
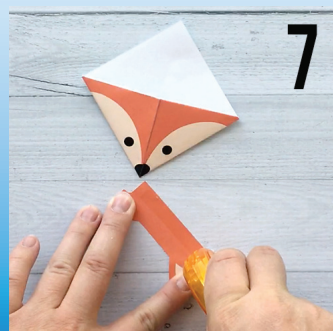
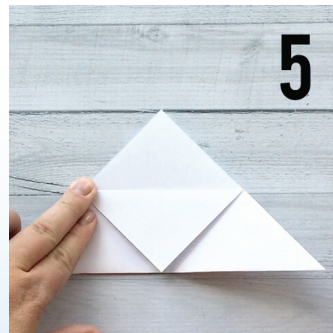
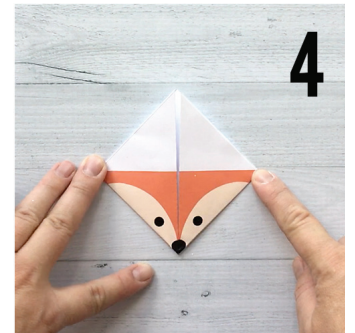
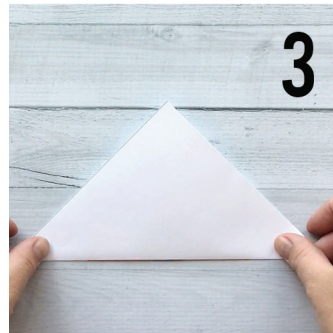
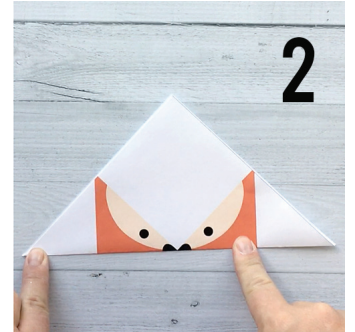
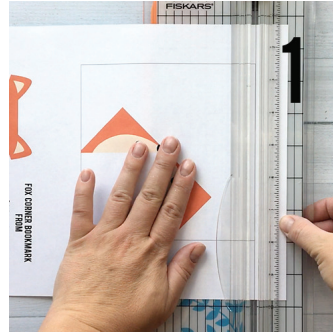


ACTIVITY

SANTA ORIGAMI BOOKMARK

Instructions

1. Print the bookmark template on plain white paper. Trim along lines to cut out the square.
2. Fold square in half diagonally to create a triangle. Both coloured areas should show on the top of the triangle.
3. Flip the triangle over.
4. Fold each outer corner of the triangle to meet together at the top of the triangle and form Santa's face. Make sure the two sides of the face line up. Press along all the folds to crease.
5. Open up the last fold you did so you are back to the original triangle. Fold the top point of the triangle down using only the top layer of paper.
6. Fold one corner back up and tuck it into the 'pocket' created in the last step. Repeat with the other corner.
7. Cut out Santa's beard and glue along the straight edge.
8. Tuck the beard inside the pocket to complete the bookmark.



ACTIVITY

SANTA ORIGAMI BOOKMARK



THE BEST PRESENT EVER
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ACTIVITY

LETTER TO SANTA

What we might want for Christmas can often be very different to what we need. Write a letter to Santa with a social justice theme in which, instead of gifts for yourself, your wishes are to overcome some of the injustices in our society. Use the templates provided or create your own.

Dear Santa,

Hello my name is _____ and I am _____ years old. I have been trying really hard to get on your 'nice' list this year. Some of the wonderful things I have done this year to help my family and friends are:

1.

2.

3.

I have a few special Christmas wishes for those people who may be doing it a little tough. They are:

1.

2.

3.

I am very excited for Christmas this year and hope it can be a happy time for everyone!

Please give my favourite Reindeer, _____ a huge hug for me.

Regards

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY



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