

National Christmas Tree Patch Program

Learn about the National Tree, Christmas in other countries and the White House. Complete ONE requirement to earn the patch.

1. Since 1923 the lighting of the National Christmas tree has been lit. Find out who lit the first tree and how tall the tree was.
2. In 1954, the tree lighting ceremony expanded for three weeks and smaller trees were placed around the large tree to represent the states. It was called the "Pageant of Peace" and nightly entertainment presented. Find out more about the entertainment shown today, participate in a program, or watch it on TV.
3. The National Christmas tree is lit every year around the beginning of December. Find out where the tree is located and who lights the tree annually.
4. Every year one of the kind ornaments are created by artists that symbolize the history, heritage and culture of their state. The ornaments are displayed on the smaller trees located around the National Christmas tree. Create your own design for an ornament representing your culture or where you live or view the ornaments on display.
5. Watch the lighting or performers online, on TV, OR in person.
6. Learn more about the White House that is located in the background of the tree display. Play a game, take a tour, or view pictures online.
7. Over 100 countries celebrate Christmas. Learn about one other country and how they celebrate Christmas. Do they have a tree, if so what do they use for decorations.
8. Reach out to our soldiers during the holiday season and send them a card to celebrate. Templates for cards are included in this kit.
9. Making cookies and treats is popular during the month of December. Create a treat, have a cookie exchange OR make cookies for the needy.
10. Learn about another culture's holiday that is similar to Christmas. Some examples include: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's. More information can be found in our "Happy Holidays" patch program.
11. Singers attend the "Pageant of Peace" annually around the National Christmas Tree. Participate in caroling, watch the Pageant of Peace, or participate in a singing program at the event.
12. Create a craft, play a game, or have a party during the holiday season.
13. Decorate a tree on paper that represents your state, country or territory. Add in special symbols or items that will make your tree shine.



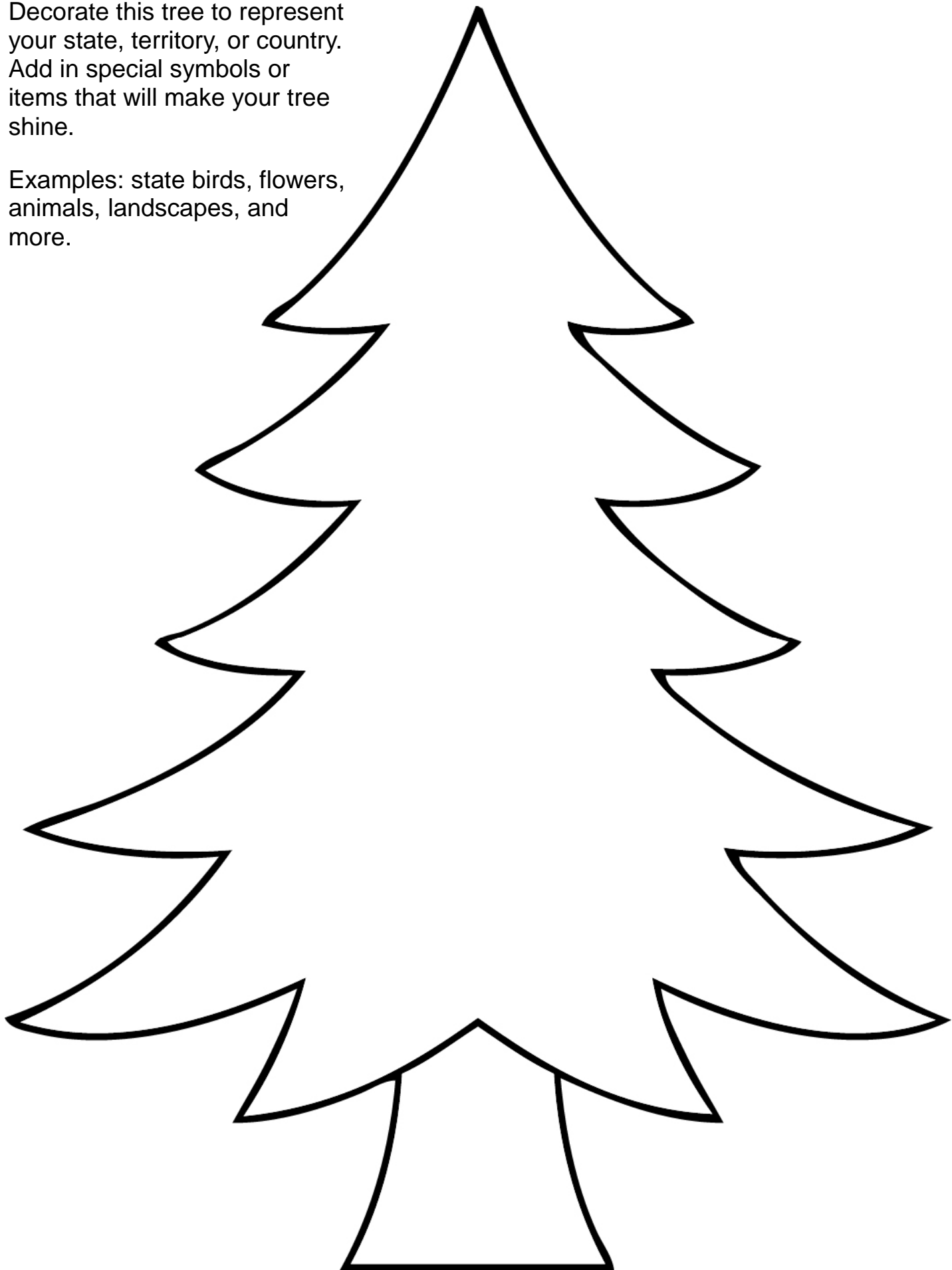
Decorate the National Tree



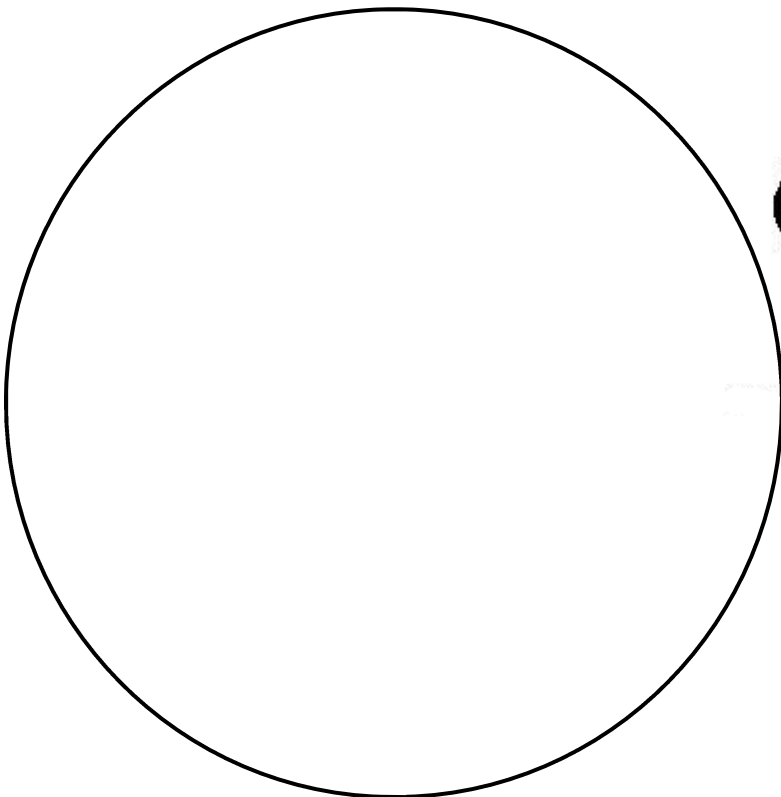
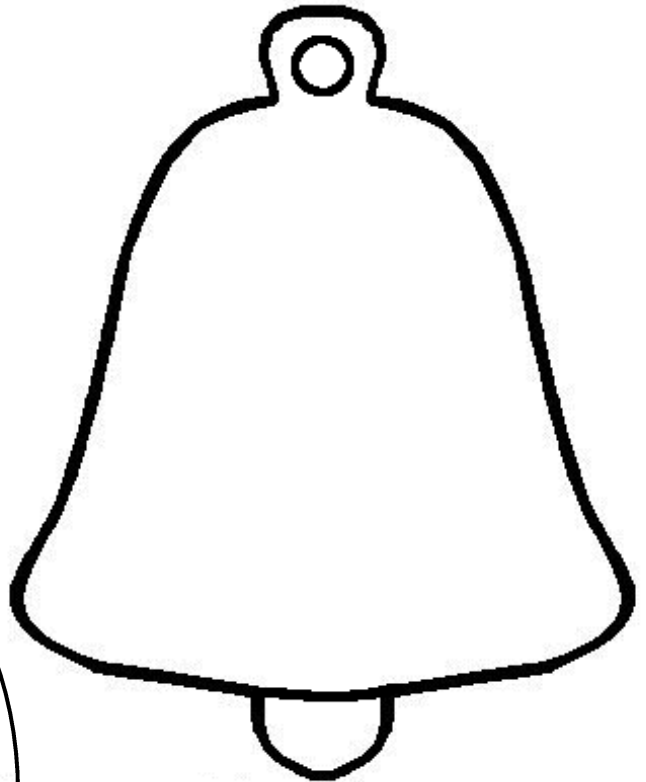
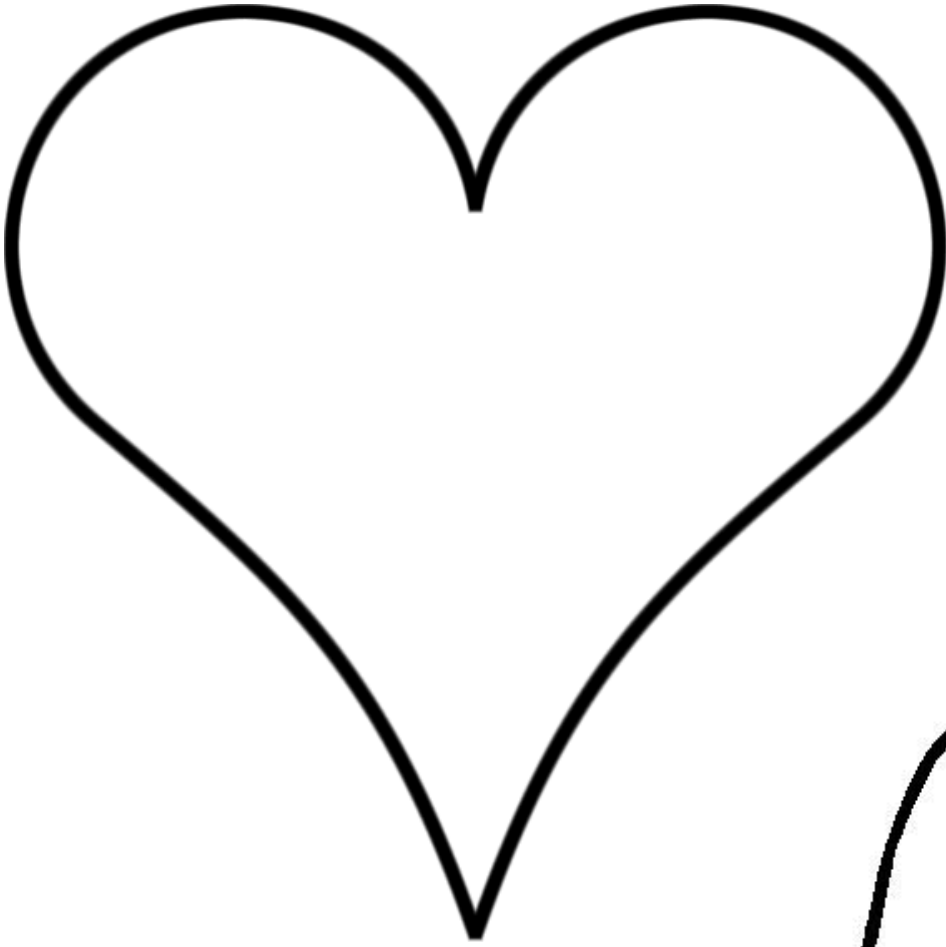
Since 1923 the lighting of the National Christmas tree has been lit. The First Lady Grace Coolidge gave permission for the District of Columbia Public Schools to erect a Christmas tree on the Ellipse south of the White House. The organizers named the tree the "National Christmas Tree." That Christmas Eve, President Calvin Coolidge walked from the White House to the Ellipse and "pushed the button" to light the 48-foot Balsam fir, as attendees watched.

Decorate this tree to represent your state, territory, or country. Add in special symbols or items that will make your tree shine.

Examples: state birds, flowers, animals, landscapes, and more.



Decorate Your Own Ornament



Every year one-of-a-kind ornaments are made by Americans, representing every U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia. These artists give their time and talents to design and create ornaments that symbolize the history heritage and culture of their homelands. The ornaments are placed on smaller trees that surround the National Christmas tree.

HAPPY

HOLIDAYS

Christmas Recipes From Around the World

Germany Create Gingerbread houses, cookies, or ornaments.

Gingerbread [During the winter, pre-made gingerbread is also available in the refrigerated section of most supermarkets]

½ cup shortening	1 teaspoon baking soda
½ cup butter, softened	1 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ cup granulated sugar	1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 cup brown sugar	¼ teaspoon ground cloves
1 egg	¼ teaspoon allspice
½ cup dark molasses	¼ teaspoon salt
4 cups flour	1 tablespoon white vinegar
Decorations such as candies and sprinkles, and spread-able frosting.	



Mix shortening, butter, and sugars together until creamed. Add egg, molasses and vinegar and beat until fluffy. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, and all spices. Add dry ingredients to the batter mixture and mix on a low speed until well blended. Cover with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for 2 hours or more to chill the dough. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit and sprinkle some flour on a counter or table to create your workspace. Take about a quarter of the dough and roll it out on the floured surface to about ¼ inch thickness and cut with cookie cutters or a knife. Use a spatula to pick up the cookies carefully and place them on a baking sheet, allowing a little space between cookies. Bake for about 8 minutes, cool slightly, remove from baking pan and cool completely on waxed paper. Decorate with frosting and decorations.

If you want to hang the cookies, poke a hole through the top of the cookie prior to baking and after dried and decorated, string with yarn, ribbon, or a straightened paper clip.



Iceland

Christmas Cake

1 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup butter
2 eggs
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 teaspoon lemon extract
1/2 teaspoon cardamom flavored extract



Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease loaf pan and set aside.

Cream the butter or margarine and the sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time beating well after each one. Stir in the milk, lemon and cardamom flavorings. Stir in the flour and the baking powder. Sift a little flour over the raisins then stir them into the batter. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes.



Mexico A chocolate drink served at Christmas time.

Mexican Hot Chocolate

6 cup milk
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
3 cinnamon sticks and ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 ½ teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoon sugar

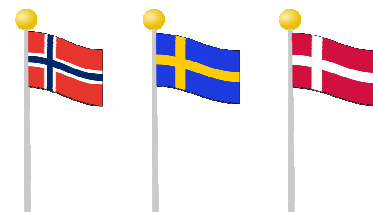


Heat 1 cup milk and the chocolate chips in a large saucepan over low heat until the chocolate is melted. Gradually add in the remaining 5 cups of milk, stirring occasionally. Add the cinnamon, vanilla, and sugar and continue to stir occasionally until the milk boils. Remove the cinnamon sticks (you can break them in half and put them in individual cups if you wish). Use a beater and whip the milk until frothy and pour into mugs. You can also decorate with some whipped cream and colored sprinkles.

Scandinavia [Iceland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden] These buns are served at the feast of St. Lucia. The oldest daughter is dressed as St. Lucia and carries the buns to her family.

Lussekattes

- pre-made dough
- Cardamom
- Pinch of saffron or yellow food coloring
- Orange extract or orange peel
- Flour
- Raisins
- Sugar



Sprinkle flour on a smooth surface. Place the bread dough in the center and knead in the cardamom, saffron (or yellow food coloring), orange extract (or grated orange peel).

Using a rolling pin, roll out the dough and slice into twelve [12] equal pieces. Roll the slices into long ropes, shaping it into a “s”. Sprinkle some sugar on top of the dough and put raisins where the ends of the “S” meet the center of the bun. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

United States A traditional recipe enjoyed by many in the US.

Popcorn Balls

6 cups of popcorn, popped
1 [10 oz] package or 4 cups of miniature marshmallows
3 tablespoons of butter
Wax paper



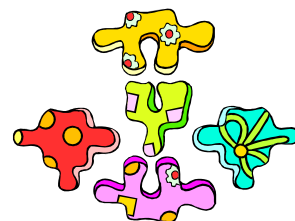
Pop the popcorn plain, air poppers work best, set aside. Melt butter in a large saucepan over low heat. Add the marshmallows and stir together until completely melted. Remove from heat. Add the popcorn, stirring until all the cereal is completely coated. When it is cool enough to touch, butter your hands and shape the popcorn mixture into balls. Lay on the wax paper. Makes about 10 balls.

Optional: Add in other items to make the popcorn balls to have a holiday theme.

Christmas Crafts From Around the World

Puzzle Cards Christmas Cards were first used in England.

Christmas or winter photos from magazines or calendars
Old christmas cards
cardstock
glue
ziploc bags



After the picture is chosen glue it to a piece of card stock. Trim around the edges of the picture, so cardstock is not visible. Cut the picture up into several different pieces. Place in ziploc bag, shake and dump out. Try to put the puzzle together. After you have put it together place it back in the bag for storage.

The Netherlands Children set their wooden shoes by the fireplace, window, or kitchen stove and fill them with hay or carrots for Sinter Klaas' horse and in exchange for the presents they will get.

Wooden Shoes

Markers
Wooden shoe pattern [located in back of this kit]

Decorate with flowers and festive designs.

Switzerland Bells are important in Switzerland's celebrations.

Paper Bells

Paper bell pattern [located in kit]
Yarn
scissors
Optional: Stickers and markers

Decorate the bell with glitter, stickers, markers, etc.

Cut a piece of yarn about 6 inches long. Place a small hole at the top of the bell. Put the yarn through the hole and secure it with a knot.

Hang it on the tree or display it in the window.

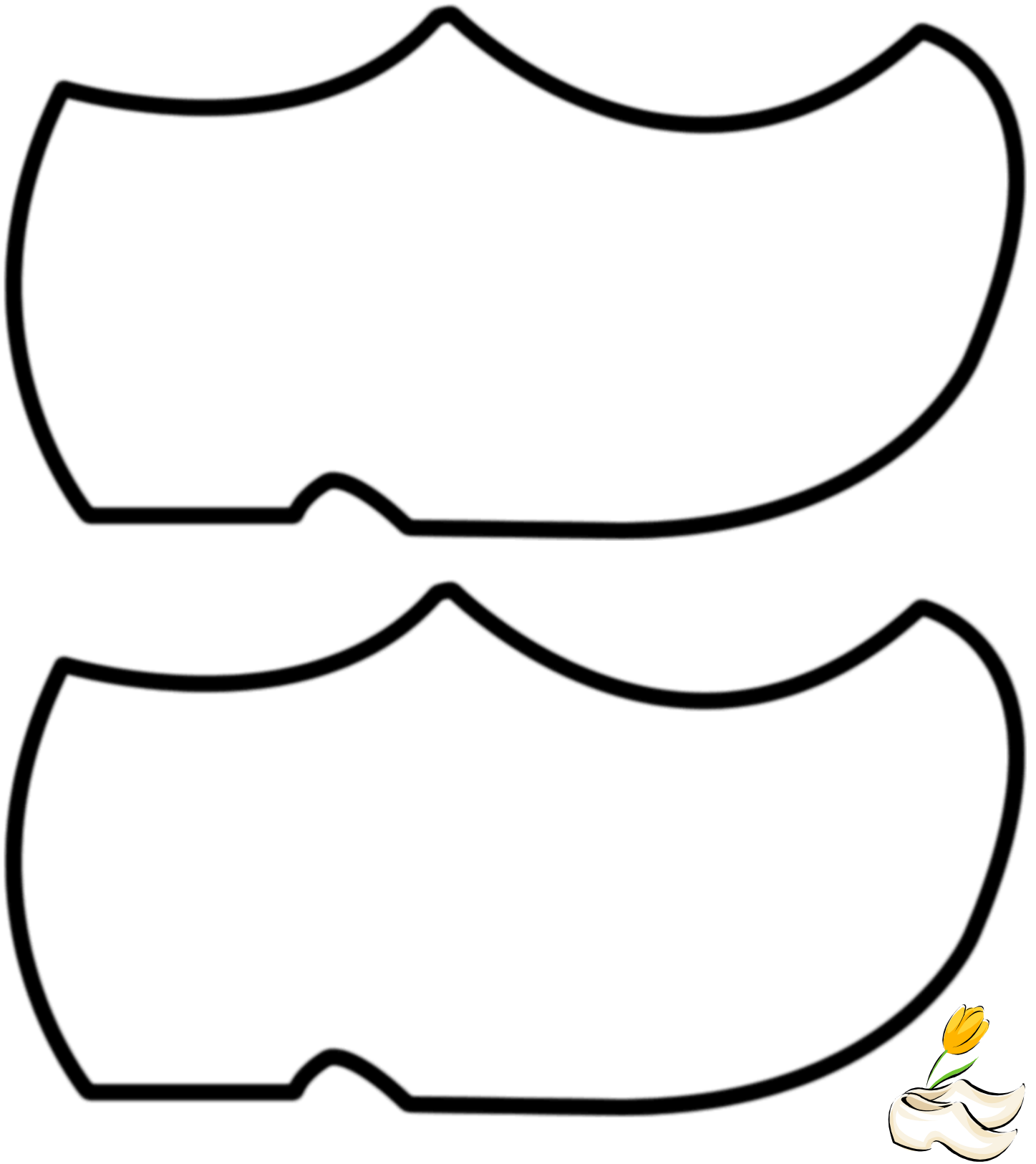
Denmark

Paper Hearts

Paper heart [located in kit]
Vibrant colored construction paper

Decorate the heart with designs that represent the Christmas season.

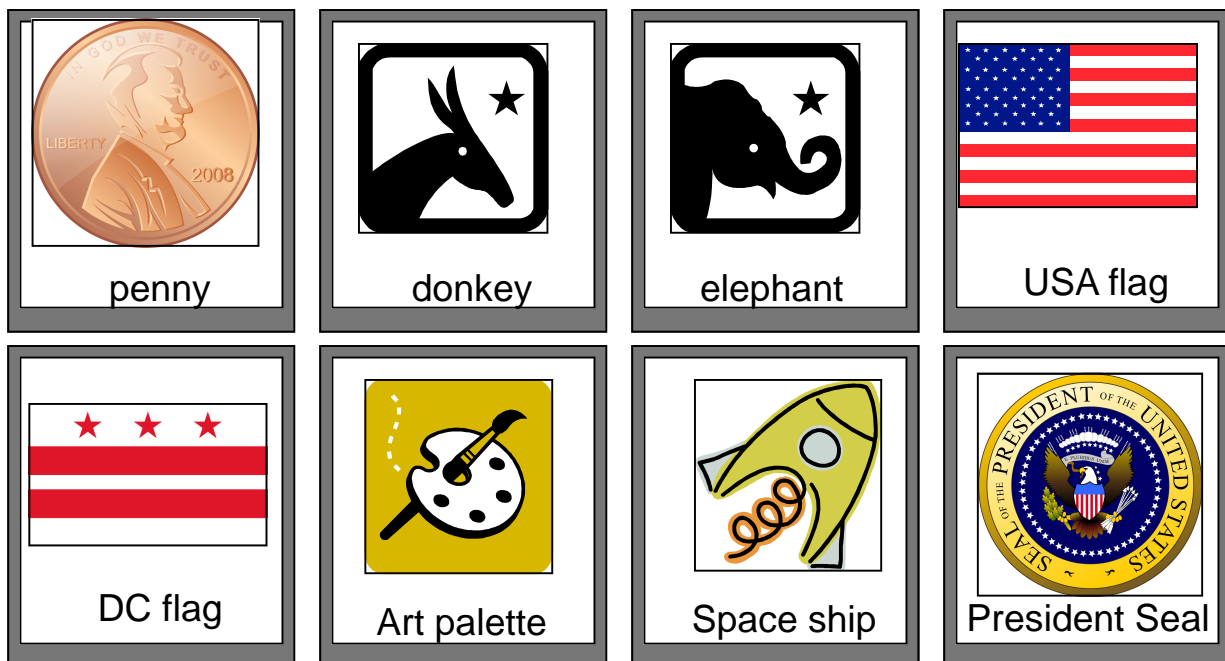
Decorate Your Own Wooden Shoes From The Netherlands



Decorate your own wooden shoes. Common designs are tulips and geometric patterns. In addition, common colors that are painted for the background are white, red, and yellow.

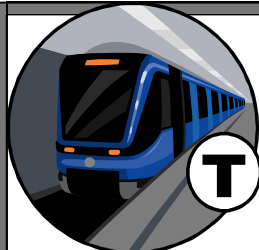
WHITE HOUSE BINGO-Calling

- **Items Needed:** Bingo Cards, Calling Cards, and foam shapes or pennies to mark the squares.
- Copy the White House Bingo Cards for each child plus the calling cards. Cut out all the calling cards and place them in a paper bag or container.
- Hand out one bingo card to each child [each card should be different]. There are six different cards to choose from. If you have a larger group participating divide them into two different groups.
- The caller should pull one image out at a time and describe it to the participants. [There should be a caller and cards for each Bingo game that is set up.]
- Distribute pennies, foam shapes, buttons to use as markers on the board.
- **Options:** Decide what pattern is made on the card to win.
- **Straight Bingo:** Make a horizontal, diagonal OR vertical line to win Bingo.
- **Blackout Bingo:** All images must be marked or covered to get Bingo.
- **Square Bingo:** Fill the card in the shape of a square, covering all the edges on the board.
- **U Bingo:** Fill the card in the shape of a U right-side up, upside down, or sideways

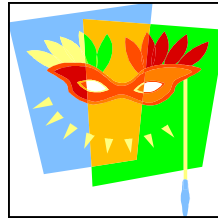




capitol



metro



mask



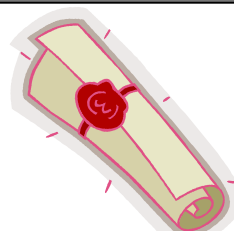
Jefferson
Memorial



Lincoln



DC



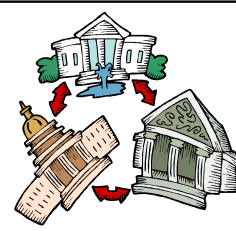
scroll



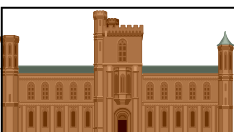
WW 2 Memorial



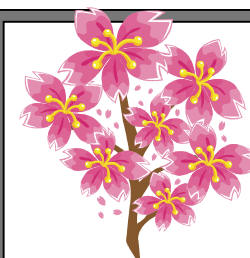
Vietnam memorial



Supreme court



Smithsonian
Castle



Cherry blossoms



Washington
Monument



White House



Ribbon



Tree

Nation's Capital BINGO

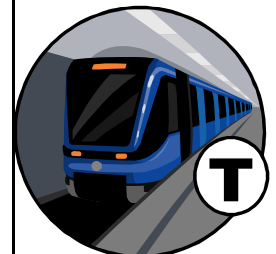
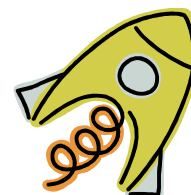
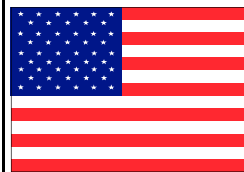
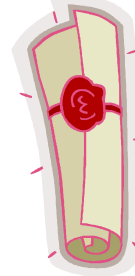
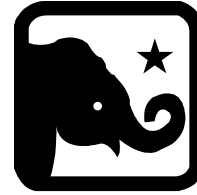
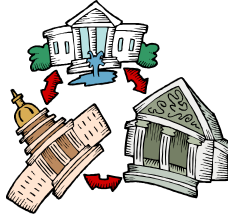
W

H

I

T

E



Nation's Capital BINGO

H

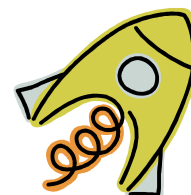
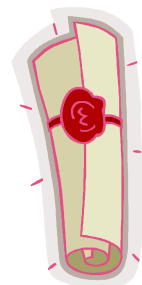
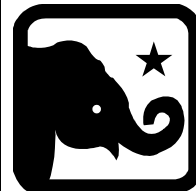
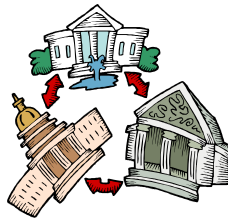
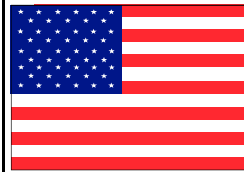
O

U

S

E

DC



Nation's Capital BINGO

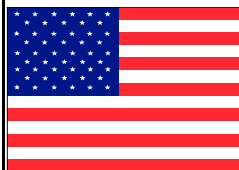
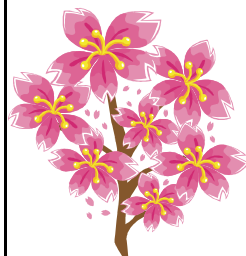
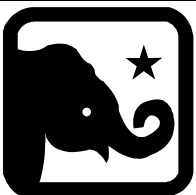
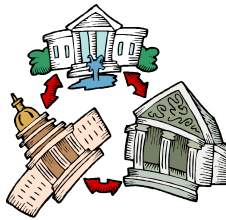
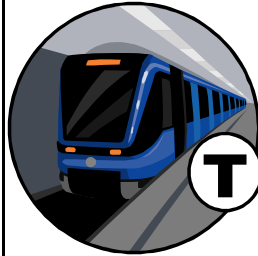
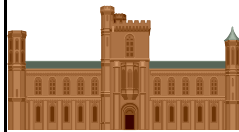
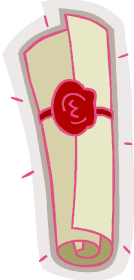
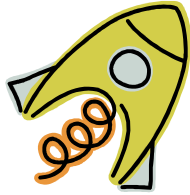
W

H

I

T

E



Nation's Capital BINGO

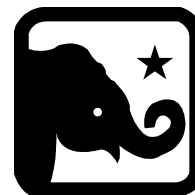
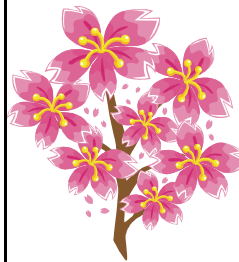
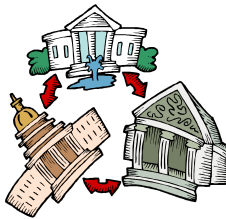
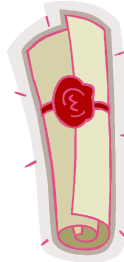
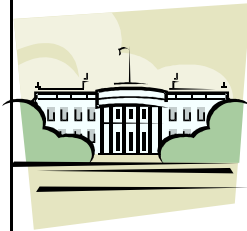
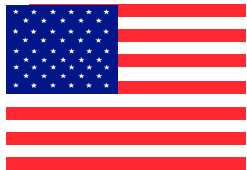
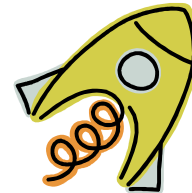
H

O

U

S

E



Nation's Capital BINGO

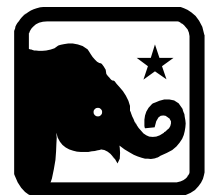
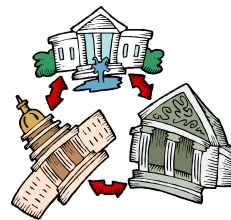
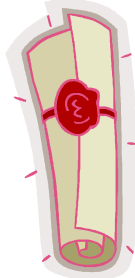
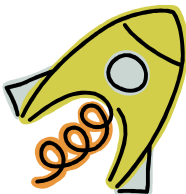
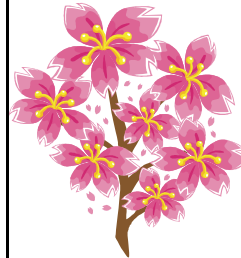
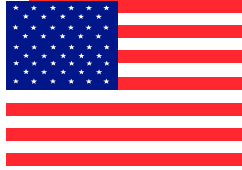
W

H

I

T

E



Nation's Capital BINGO

H

O

U

S

E

