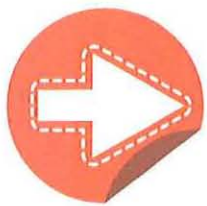
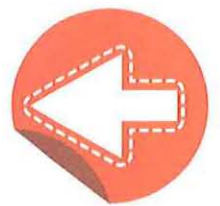




Meeting 21 Christmas



Here are three fun ways you can celebrate Christmas with your Busy Bees. Adapt these ideas to meet the needs of your Busy Bees or use your own activities.



ACTIVITY

1

The Star

10

MINUTES

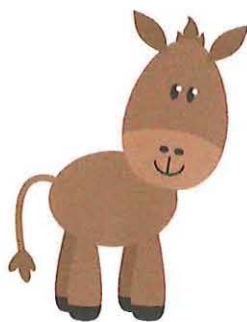
WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Hide the stuffed animals in locations where the Busy Bees can easily find them.

Have the Busy Bees dress as shepherds, shepherdesses, wisemen/women, and angels. Begin by reading a Christmas story. Then have the children follow an adult who is carrying a star while they search for the animals in the story. End the search at the nativity scene and talk about how the star pointed the way to Jesus.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Costumes/robes/ large pieces of fabric
- Nativity scene
- Star
- A Christmas story of your choice, such as *Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story* by Sally Lloyd-James (Zonderkidz, 2011)
- Stuffed animals to illustrate the story you tell



Gifts with Handmade Wrapping Paper

20
MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Find a local non-profit organization that is collecting new gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves to distribute to people who need them. Make a list of what's needed and share it with the Busy Bees and their parents ahead of time. It's a good idea for you as a leader to purchase several extra items for Busy Bees who forgot or are unable to make a donation. Ask the other adults to help cut shapes in the potatoes using cookie cutters as stencils. Cover the work area with newspaper.

Not all organizations are able to accept wrapped gifts. Please check with your selected organization ahead of time. If wrapped gifts are not accepted, the kids could make a Christmas card to accompany each gift. As an alternative, the Busy Bees could donate items for several Operation Christmas Child boxes (visit samaritanspurse.org for more information) and each make a card to go with their gift.

Begin by reading the story of the wise men from the Bible (see Matthew 2) and talk about the gifts they brought to Jesus. Discuss why it is important to give gifts especially to those who are in need. Tell the children that first they will make their own wrapping paper and then wrap the gifts.

Have the Busy Bee place the potato, carved side facing down, into a shallow container of paint. Then the Busy Bee presses the potato onto the paper. Repeat until the paper is covered with stamps. Use the hair dryer to dry the paint. When the paint is dry, wrap the gifts with the wrapping paper. Make sure each gift is clearly labeled.

TIP

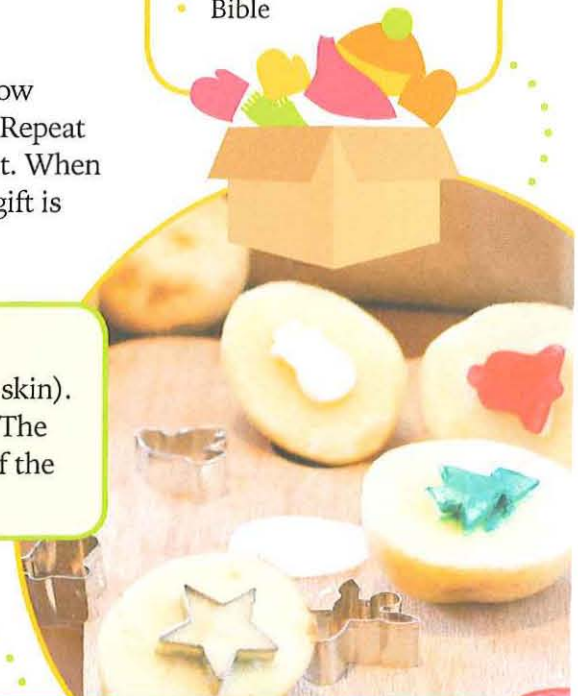
How to make a potato stamp: Cut the potato in half. Press a Christmas cookie cutter into the potato (on the side, not the skin). Cut away the potato that is outside the cookie cutter design. The design should be about 0.5 in (1 cm) above the carved area of the potato.



2 ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Items donated by Busy Bees
- Potatoes
- Tempera or acrylic paint
- Plates
- Christmas cookie cutters
- X-ACTO knives
- Tape
- Hair dryer
- Markers
- Roll of paper or blank greeting cards
- Smocks
- Newspaper
- Bible



ACTIVITY

3

Trees

15

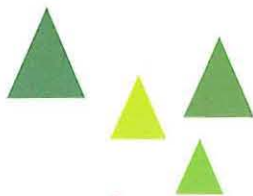
MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

Begin by reading a book about Christmas traditions. Talk about Christmas traditions and how different cultures celebrate in different ways. Give each Busy Bee a pre-cut felt tree and have them decorate it by gluing on buttons, beads, and ribbons.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Felt Christmas trees
- Buttons
- Beads
- Ribbons
- Fabric glue
- Scissors
- A book about Christmas traditions, such as *A Porcupine in a Pine Tree: A Canadian 12 Days of Christmas* by Helaine Becker (Northwinds, 2010), *A Piñata in a Pine Tree: A Latino 12 Days of Christmas* by Pat Mora (Clarion, 2009), or *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree: An Appalachian Story* by Gloria Houston and Barbara Cooney (Puffin, 1996)



You're almost done!

