

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
December Calendar	4
Bulletin Board Ideas	6
The First Day of Winter	7
Origins of Holiday Songs	9
Gifts to Make	10
Multicultural Cooking: Recipes	12
Learning Center Activities	19
December Word-A-Gram	21
Christmas Contractions	22
Synonym Stocking	24
Letter to Santa	25
Story Starters	26
My Book About Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas Around the World: The Child's Book	28

Written by

Lee Ellen Ehorn and Shirley J. Hewlett

Poetry by

Dale M. Hewlett

Illustrations by

Marina Wood

The purchase of this book entitles the individual teacher to reproduce copies for use in the classroom. The reproduction of any part for an entire school or school system or for commercial use is strictly prohibited. No form of this work may be reproduced or transmitted or recorded without written permission from the publisher.

Copyright © 1995

Milliken Publishing Company

1100 Research Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63132

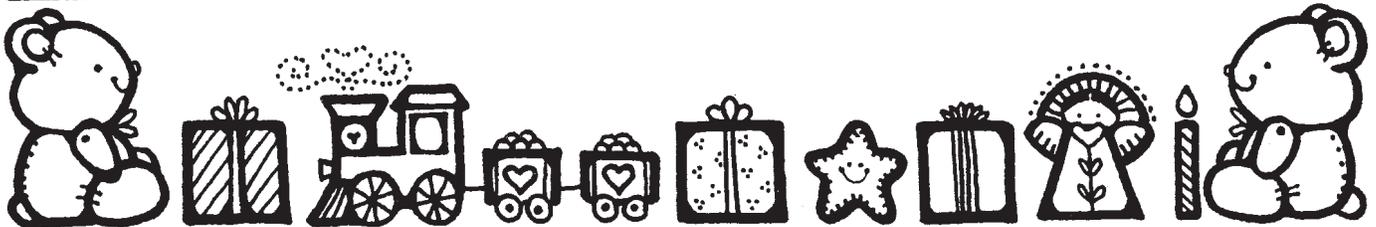
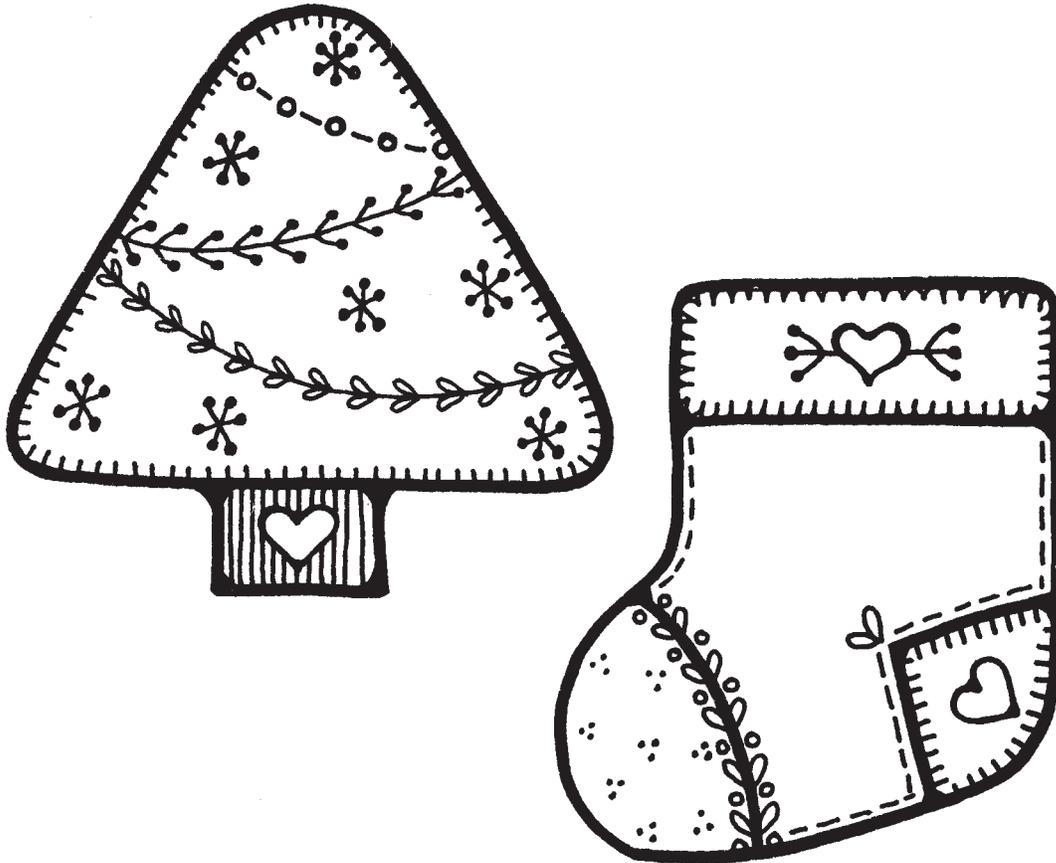
All rights reserved.
ISBN 0-7877-0025-8



December Calendar

The patterns below can be reproduced, and numbers can be put on the back of each one. Punch a hole in the top of each ornament. A child can lift each day's pattern from its pin and place it over another pin on the corresponding day of the calendar board.

A transparency can be made of the picture on the following page for the top of the calendar. Trace the enlarged picture on poster board. Color the picture with marking pens and laminate it for a long-lasting poster.





Bulletin Board Ideas

Principles of Kwanzaa

Divide a bulletin board into seven sections and label each section with a principle of Kwanzaa. (See page 2 in the child's book.) You may want to describe the principles also. Discuss with the children the origin of the African–American celebration. Have kids draw or collect pictures showing people fulfilling the principles of Kwanzaa.

Christmas Tree Lane

By using long sheets of butcher paper, you can create a bulletin board “Christmas Tree Lane.” First, cover the top half of the bulletin board with blue paper so that it will appear to be a large blue sky. Then cover the bottom portion with white paper in the same manner. By tearing the upper edge of the white paper irregularly, you can create the effect of snow against the blue horizon.

Now fold large pieces of green construction paper 12 x 18 in. (30 x 46 cm) lengthwise. Then trace a large Christmas tree on each. Have the children cut them out while the paper is folded. When they have finished cutting them out, let the children decorate the trees with silver and gold stars, Christmas seals, or simulated ornaments that can be made from wrapping paper or from the lining of Christmas card envelopes. If some children would like to use a crayon to add to the decoration, it might give them more of an opportunity to express themselves. Garlands could also be glued on the trees.

After the trees are decorated, the teacher can print the students' names on the bottoms of their trees with white glue. Glitter can be sprinkled on the glue and allowed to dry. Now the children can easily identify their trees.

Place the trees on the snowy area of the bulletin board. Pin a sleigh and reindeer on the upper portion of the board. They will appear to be flying across the sky. Silver and gold stars may be pasted on the sky to give more of a night effect. A caption such as “Christmas Tree Lane” could be added.

Helping Hand Wreaths

Cut a large circle from red construction paper. Then cut a smaller circle from the center to form a wreath. Make enough wreaths so that each child has one. Have each child trace around his or her hand and then cut out the tracing. Give each child two large sheets of construction paper, one red and one green. Using the hand patterns, have each child make eight red hands and eight green hands. The child can paste them alternately on the wreath. A green or red crepe paper ribbon can be placed at the bottom of the wreath. The hand wreaths make an effective bulletin board.