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FOLD&LEARN™

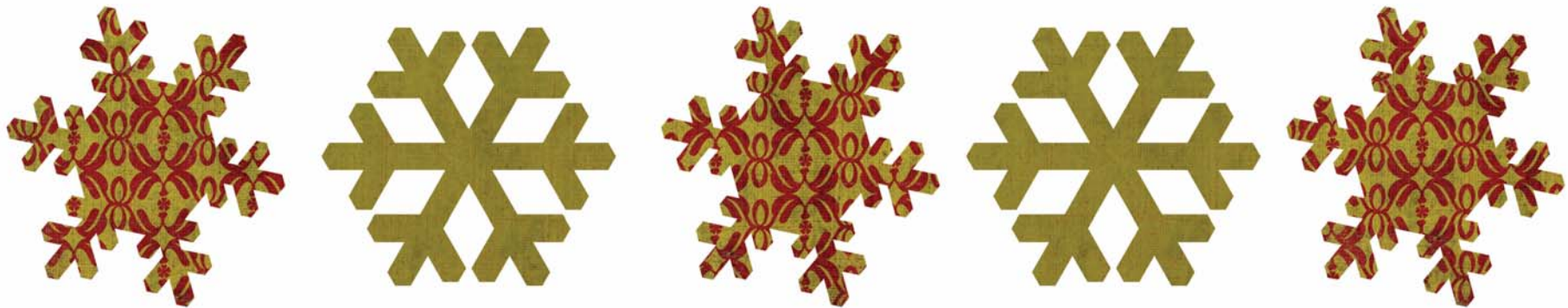


Christmas

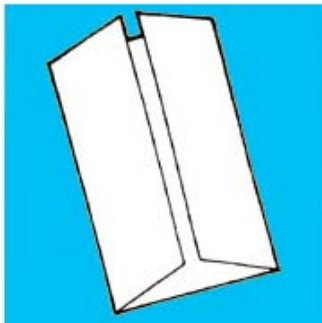
five in a row holiday

Christmas 2007

Fold-and-Learn©



FIVE in a ROW ©



TO ASSEMBLE YOUR FOLD-AND-LEARN PRODUCT

There is no right or wrong way to assemble your fold and learn product...let creativity be your guide. We like to start with two shutter-folded file folders and glue the outer flaps together. This is but one way to put it all together. Use whatever method you like and that works for you. Let your children have fun trying new ways to put it all together.

Make lift the flap books or other smaller books to place inside your folders. Make a pocket using staples or brads or a dab of glue or use an envelope to hold items inside. Have fun and enjoy!



The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Twelve Days of Christmas is probably the most misunderstood part of the traditional church year among many Christ followers. Some might think celebration would begin *before* Christmas,

but in most of the Western Church these are the twelve days from Christmas Day until the beginning of Epiphany. [January 6th] So, the 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th. Other traditions count the day after Christmas [the 26th] as the first day and include Epiphany on January 6th.

Epiphany is the celebration of the Wise Men or Magi arriving to present their gifts to baby Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12). It is believed there were three Magi because there were three gifts mentioned in the Bible, although the number of wise men are never mentioned.

The gifts mentioned in the song may seem random and a little silly, but throughout history many believed that the gifts referred to the foundations of the Christian faith and that God is the "true Love" spoken of in the song. This has not been proven, however but it is exciting and fun to think about the song in this way!1

[Note: Lack of historical proof of the meaning of the gifts should not prevent us from using the song in celebration of Christmas. Many of the symbols of Christianity were not originally religious, this includes even the date we choose to celebrate Christmas! Many traditions we still celebrate became a part of our culture as Christians publicly celebrated their faith in God throughout the years.



The Legend of the Twelve Days of Christmas

Partridge in a pear tree	Jesus, and his death for us on the cross [Luke 13:34]
2 Turtledoves	The Old and New Testaments
3 French Hens	Faith, Hope and Charity 1 Corinthians 13:13
4 Calling Birds	The four Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
5 Golden Rings	The first Five books of the Old Testament
6 Geese a Laying	The six days of Creation Genesis 1
7 Swans a-swimming	The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit [prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading & compassion] Romans 12:6-8 & 1 Corinthians 12:8-11
8 Maids a-milking	the 8 Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-10
9 Ladies Dancing	the 9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit Galatians 5:22
10 Lords a-Leaping	the 10 Commandments Exodus 20:1-17
11 Pipers Piping	the 11 faithful Apostles (Luke 6:14-16)
12 Drummers Drumming	the we tenets of the Apostle's Creed *full text on next page

"It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection, disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour." from *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens

**Copy this quote or reprint in a decorative font to place in your Fold and Learn. Be sure to discuss any unfamiliar words or spellings used by Dickens, if appropriate for your student.*



The Twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed:

1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell [the grave].
5. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
6. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
7. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
8. the holy catholic Church,
9. the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and life everlasting.

DID YOU KNOW?

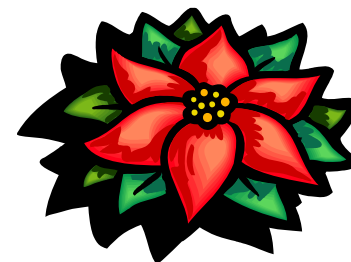
Christmas carols are songs that celebrate the Nativity or the birth of Jesus Christ.

During the 12th Century, St Francis of Assisi formally introduced Christmas carols to church services. As patron of the arts, he inspired the composers and poets of the day to compose Christmas music.

The lighter joyous Christmas songs were introduced many years later in Renaissance Italy during the 1400s, the time of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.



The **Apostles Creed**, sometimes called the **Symbol of the Apostles** is an early statement of Christian beliefs, a creed or "symbol." It is widely used by numerous Christian denominations as a part of worship to affirm the foundational truths found in scripture.





Christmas Vocabulary Words

- nativity** birth, especially, the place, conditions and circumstances of being born.
- carol** a joyful religious song celebrating the birth of Christ.
- Magi** the wise men, generally assumed to be three in number, who paid homage to the infant Jesus. [Matt. 2:1–12]
- symbol** something which stands for or represents something else.
- Epiphany** a celebration of the revelation or the coming of Jesus to the world. (represented by the three wise men)
- Bethlehem** a small town near Jerusalem on the west bank of the Jordan River; early home of David and regarded as the place where Jesus was born

The pictures below are of a Black Swan family.



For a great read-aloud fiction book starring swans try [Trumpeter of the Swan](#) by E.B. White

♪ Seven Swans a-swimming... ♪

Swans are the largest, and generally considered the most beautiful, of the waterfowl. A male swan is known as a **cob**, a female is a **pen**, and the young are called **cygnets**.

Not all swans are white. The Australian Black Swan are native to most of Australia, including Tasmania. Black swans can also be found in New Zealand and Sweden.

Black Swans are more social than other swan breeds. During mating season they will often nest in loose colonies or groups. Most other breeds will not tolerate other pairs anywhere near their nests. The parents of Black Swans often carry the young cygnets on their backs when they are swimming.



Symbols of Christmas

a symbol is something that stands for something else.
Here are three familiar Christmas symbols to discuss with your student.



Star

The Star of Bethlehem guided the Three Wisemen [Magi] to Baby Jesus



Candles

Candles represent the light that Jesus brought to earth.



Stocking

Legend has it that St. Nicholas, a Christian who wanted to remain anonymous while helping the poor, threw gold coins down the chimney of one family and the coins accidentally fell into a stocking that was hanging there to dry!



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

See your Five in a Row Holiday for great Christmas reading recommendations in addition to:

The Real Twelve Days of Christmas by Helen Haidle

The Adventure of Christmas: Helping Children Find Jesus in Our Holiday Traditions by Lisa Whelchel and illustrated by Jeannie Mooney

Web Resources:

Twelve Days of Christmas Coloring Pages

<http://www.kidsturncentral.com/coloring/12dayscolor.htm>



ITALY

Christmas Around the World



Flag of Italy

CHRISTMAS IN ITALY

The popularity of the Nativity scene, one of the most beloved symbols of the holiday season, originated in Italy. St. Francis of Assisi asked a man named Giovanni Vellita of the village of Greccio to create a manger scene. St. Francis performed mass in front of this early Nativity scene, inspiring awe and devotion in all who saw it. The creation of Nativity scenes has become an entire genre of folk art.

In Rome, Italy, cannons are fired from the Castel St. Angelo on Christmas Eve to announce the beginning of the holiday season. The main exchange of gifts takes place on January 6, the feast of the Epiphany, the celebration in remembrance of the Magi's visit to the Christ Child.



Castel St. Angelo in Rome, Italy.



Buon Natale means Merry Christmas in Italian



NOTES FOR THE TEACHER:

Ideas for Using Your 12 Days of Christmas Cards

You might wish to use these cards to decorate your 12 days of Christmas book or to play games and teach lessons.

- **FUN:** Try playing a 12 Days of Christmas version of "I packed my bag"...a familiar car game. [One person says "I packed my bag and in it I put...", followed by any object they like in the traditional version of the game. The next person then says "I packed my bag and in it I put...", followed by the original suggestion, and adding their own. A player is disqualified if they forget one of the previously occurring items or can not think of a new item to add to the bag. The game continues until all but the winner has been disqualified.] You might call your game "I shopped for Christmas and bought..." just for fun.
- **MATH:** Let your younger student make tally marks for each of the gifts and add them up or Use this lesson as an opportunity to explain sequences, in this case 1+12 six times to find the answer.
- **FUN:** Make two copies of the pages, cut them out and paste onto colored cardstock to make a memory game, or hide one set of cards and go on a "present hunt" for the others.
- Paste each card onto a notebook page and help your child start a research project. For example: "8 maids a milking" might lead you on a fun adventure in discovering the history of daily farming. Do maids still milk cows? Ask and answer these questions with your child.
- There are surely an unlimited amount of ideas for fun and learning using the Twelve Days of Christmas cards. Use your imagination!

Creating a Twelve Days of Christmas book:

Use the cards to create a fun play book for your child. Re-purpose the many Christmas cards you receive from businesses in the mail for this fun activity. Punch holes in 5 or 6 cards [of similar size] along the folded edge and draw ribbon through the holes and knot to bind them together like a book. Let your child paint over the parts of the cards they want to cover or use scraps of wrapping paper to decoupage them. [This should be done **before** you bind them together and allow time to dry.]

Here are some ideas for making this a fun learning project:

- Have your child copy the poem verse for each page onto notebook paper and paste into the book
- Copy a scripture verse for each page or every other page to add meaning
- Let your younger student write out the number word on each page
- Let your student use the accompanying glitter snowflakes and Christmas symbol coloring pages to decorate their pages.

Visit the digital store for photos of this project. www.fiveinarowdigital.com



**A PARTRIDGE
IN A PEAR TREE**



2 TURTLEDOVES



3 FRENCH HENS



4 CALLING BIRDS



5 GOLDEN RINGS



6 GEESE A-LAYING



7 SWANS A-SWIMMING



8 MAIDS A-MILKING



9 LADIES DANCING



10 LORDS A-LEAPING



11 PIPERS PIPING



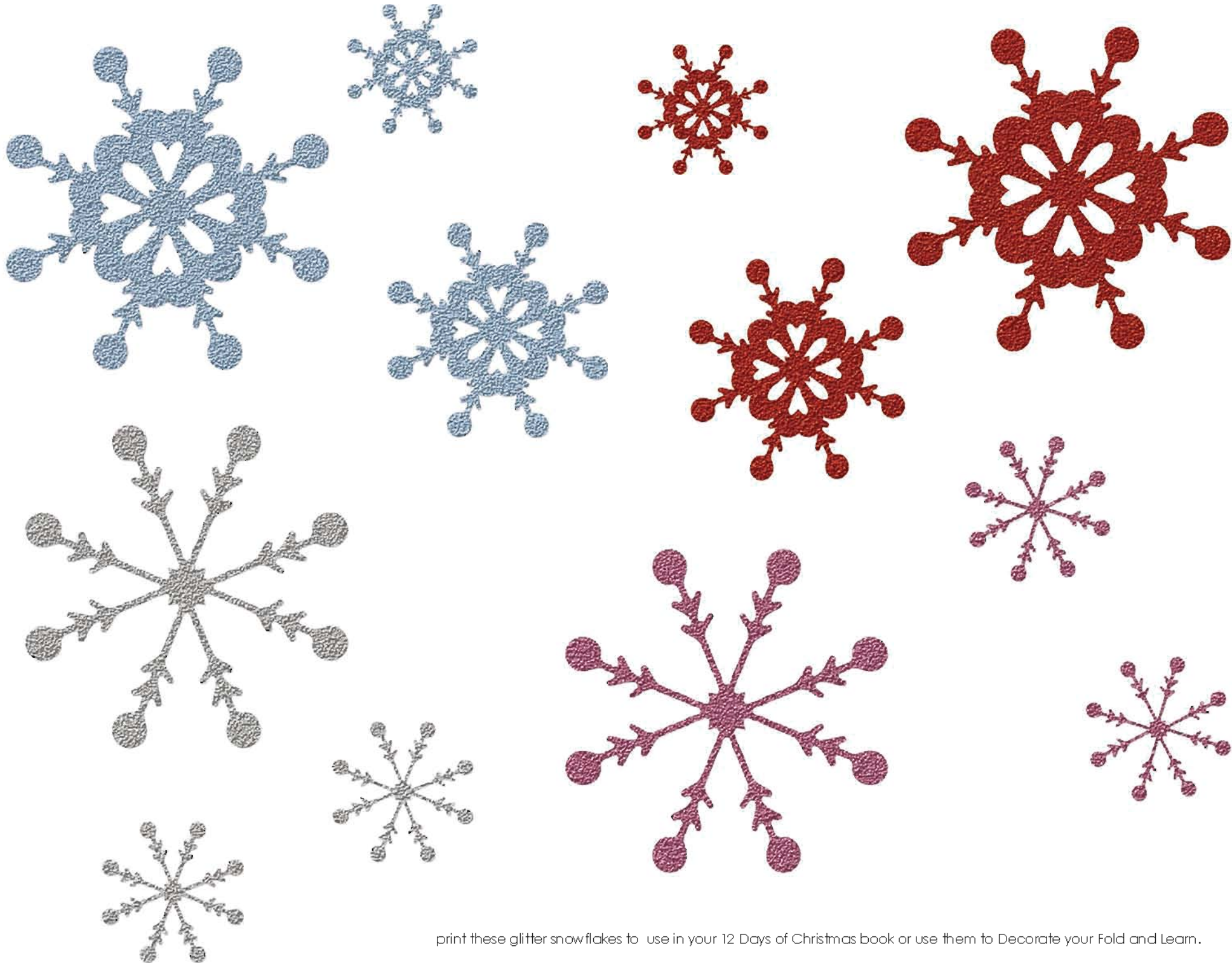
**12 DRUMMERS
DRUMMING**



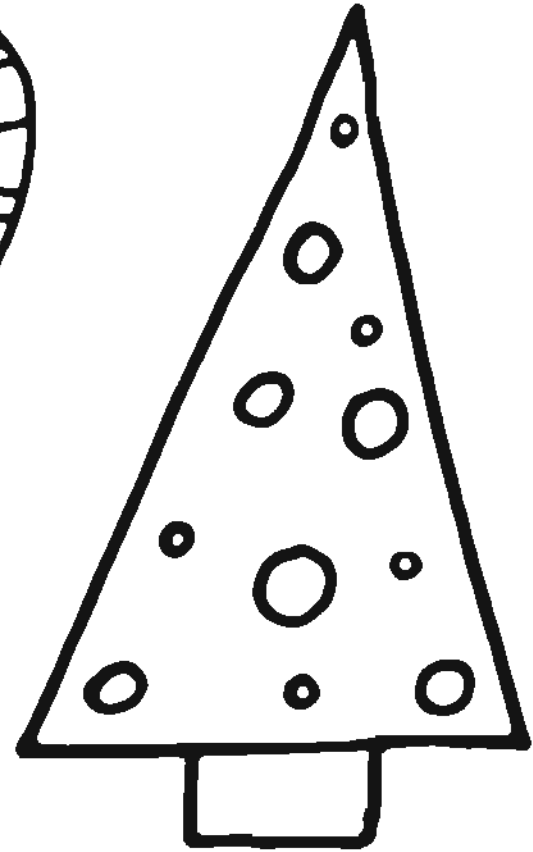
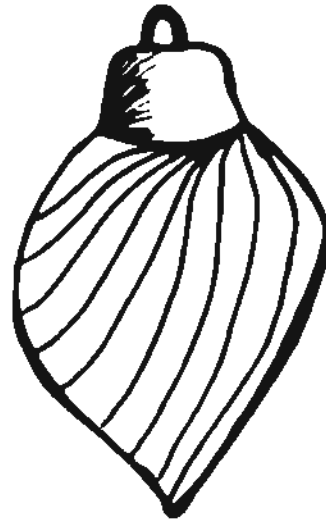
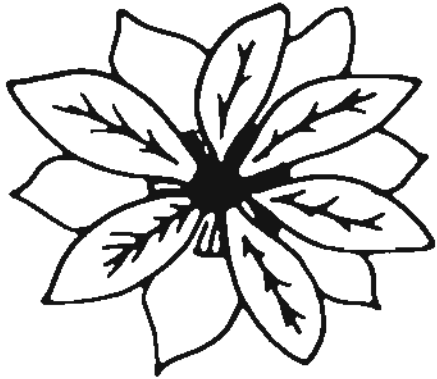
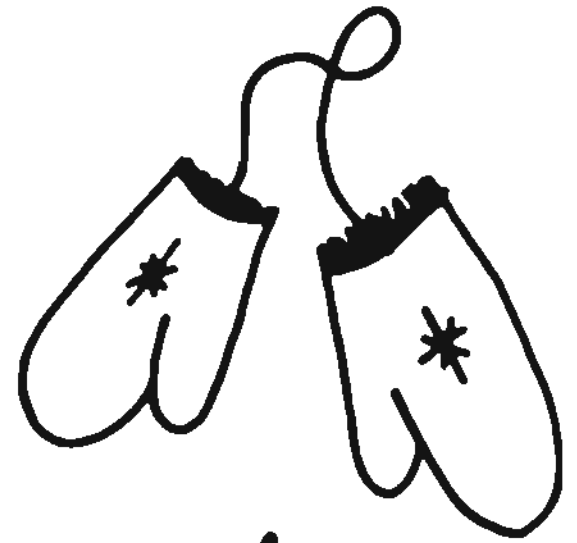
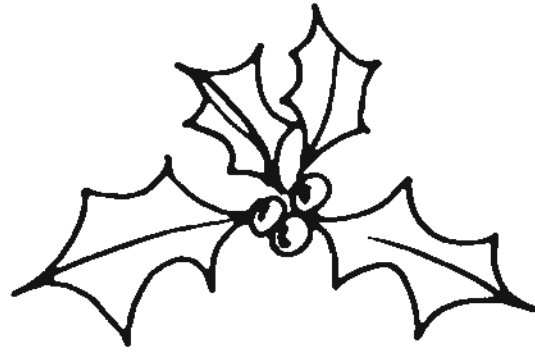
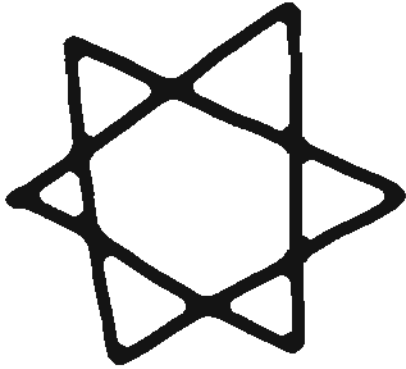
MY
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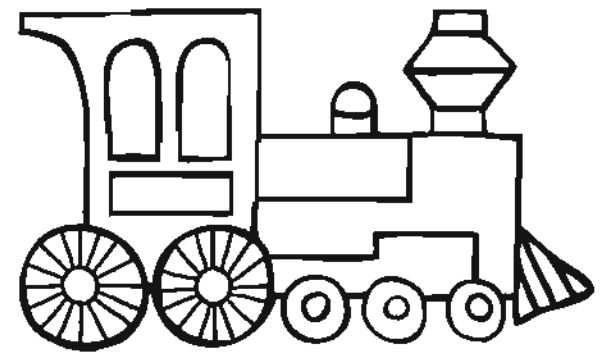
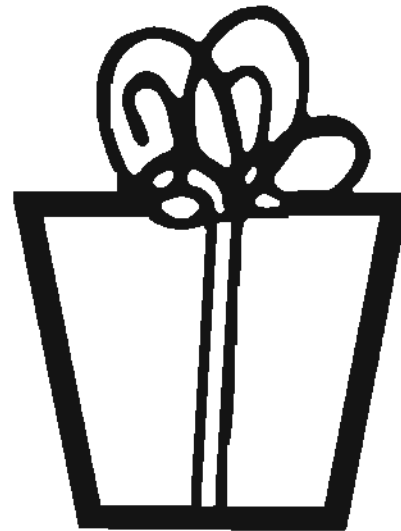
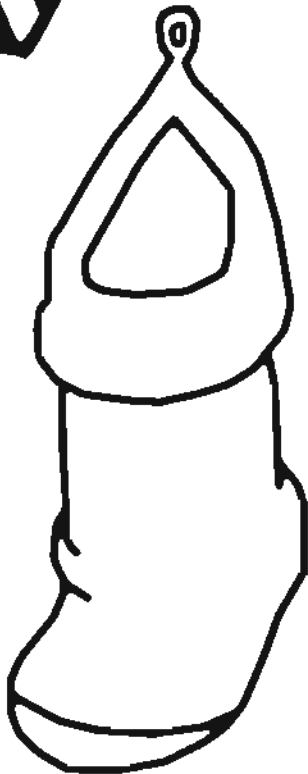
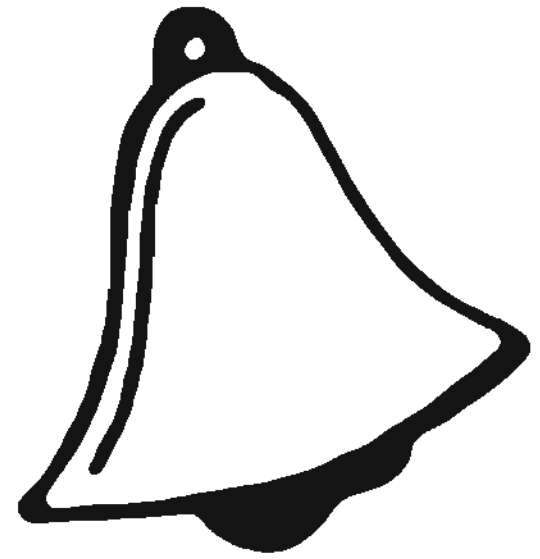
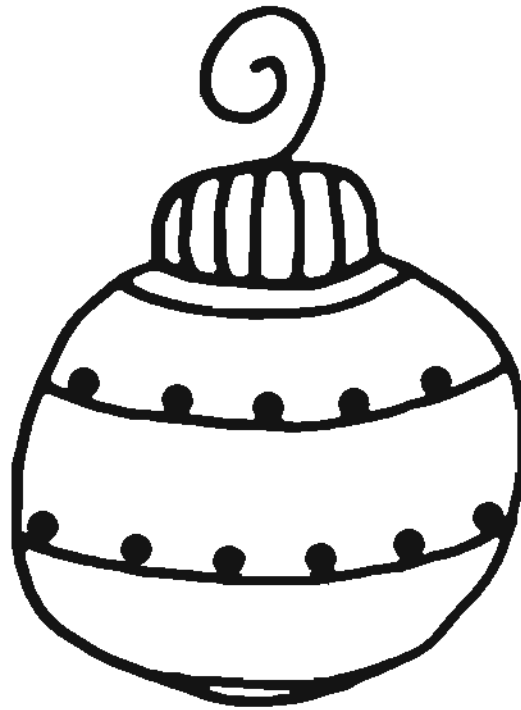
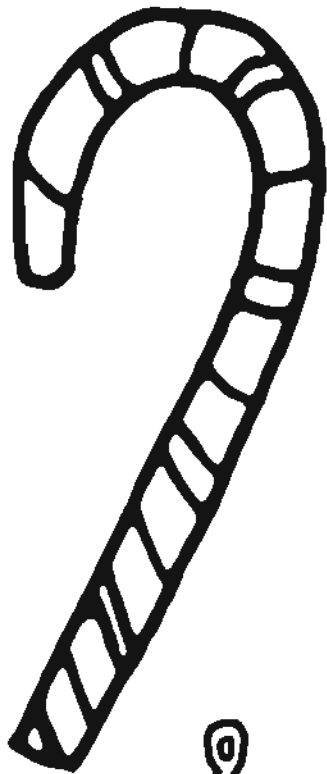


MY
TWELVE
DAYS OF
CHRISTMAS
BOOK



print these glitter snowflakes to use in your 12 Days of Christmas book or use them to Decorate your Fold and Learn.





Five in a Row Holiday

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