

FOR KIDS, ABOUT KIDS

TREEHOUSE

Home-made Christmas crackers

YOU WILL NEED

- Toilet paper roll cores (2 per cracker)
- Christmas wrapping paper, or create your own by drawing/painting, stickering, or stamping your own designs
- Glue stick (non-toxic and clear), or double-sided tape
- Scissors
- Narrow ribbon or craft twine (string)
- Cracker snaps (1 per cracker)
- Ruler
- Pencil

TREATS AND CONTENTS

(pick and choose up to 3 of those below)

- Handwritten jokes (1 per cracker)
- Party hats, hand-made and cut from crepe paper (2 per cracker, rolled)
- Sweets such as small peppermint candy canes, wrapped chocolate or lollies (1 or 2 per cracker)
- Small knick-knack (if budget allows) – ideas include handwritten 'vouchers', keyrings, erasers, collectables (bought in sets and unbundled), Matchbox cars (unboxed ones can be bought in bulk and cheap from second-hand stores), hair clips, mini nail polish. It can be anything as long as they fit within the toilet roll core!



TIPS

- These are a great idea for an afternoon indoors with tamariki. The completed crackers make great table or tree decorations ready for guests at Christmas.
- Cracker snaps should be widely available at craft stores and emporiums around this time of year. If you can't find them, the bonbons without them are still a novel way to wrap up and present your stocking stuffers.

STEP 1

Measure and cut the toilet roll. Halve one of the toilet rolls by measuring and marking with a pencil then carefully cutting through so you have two even halves.

STEP 2

Measure out the wrap. Measure out and cut enough wrap so that it fully wraps around the toilet paper roll with about 1cm overhang. Place the two short tubes at each end of the long tube with a small overhang of about 1cm at each end and trim.

STEP 3

Fix down the toilet paper rolls to the wrap. Apply double-sided tape or glue both edges of the long edges of the wrapping paper.

STEP 4

Add the smaller end pieces. Place the two half toilet paper rolls at each end so they line up with the edge. Allow about 5-10mm between the edge of the large roll and the two outer rolls and glue or tape down with double-sided tape.

STEP 5

Fix down the cracker snap. Insert the cracker snap so that there's even overhang across the two end tubes and fix down to the centre core only with tape or a little glue.

STEP 6

Insert goodies. Pop the goodies inside the centre roll, taking care not to knock the snap, and carefully roll up the bonbon so that it's flush against the rolls.

STEP 7

Twist the ends and tie off. Gently twist the outer ends to cinch around the end of the snapper and tie off with the ribbon or twine. Tape down the snapper at each end as an optional extra. Trim the snapper and wrapping paper so they're even and flush.

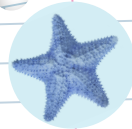
Beach scavenger hunt

When you're at the beach this summer, see how many of the items below you can spot.

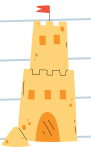
☐ Cockles / tuangi



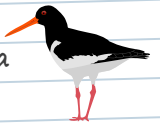
☐ Starfish / pātangaroa



☐ Sandcastle / whare kirikiri



☐ Oystercatcher bird / tōrea



☐ Cricket ball / kirikiti pōro



☐ Seagull / karoro



☐ Little blue penguin / kororā



☐ Sunblock / pare tikākā



☐ Shag / kawau



☐ Sea urchin / kina



Remember – keep clear of wildlife as you may disturb them or their habitat. Observe them from a safe distance. For more information, visit doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/how-to-behave-around-wildlife/

If you're picking up kaimoana, ask an adult about recreational catch limits and sizes and take notice of any warnings where they may be toxic.