

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*For the Busy Moms*

## Christmas Traditions

Every family has their own holiday traditions and may celebrate certain days or feasts based on their personal faith or beliefs. This activity packet is focused on Christmas activities for children!

Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. It is a day to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas is also a time when people exchange gifts with family and friends. While this year's Christmas traditions may look a little different for everyone, we can continue to spread the Christmas spirit and cheer to others!

One of my favorite websites for learning about Christmas customs and also how Christmas is celebrated in various countries throughout the world is: <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/>

Some typical Christmas traditions include: decorating a Christmas tree, exchanging presents on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, celebrating Advent with a calendar, decorating with poinsettias, enjoying the magic of Christmas lights throughout the neighborhood, and singing Christmas carols.

Take the time to sit down and talk about your family's Christmas traditions!

## Family Activities

Whether you are planning to travel or staying at home this Christmas season, here are some fun ideas to keep your kids entertained:

1. Build a Gingerbread house. You can find ready made gingerbread houses which you just need to decorate or you can find a kit where you build the house and then decorate it. Both options provide different challenges and fun. You can make it a decorating competition or just have fun being creative!
2. Put on the Christmas tree lights, make some hot chocolate and watch a family-friendly Christmas movie,
3. If you haven't yet put up a Christmas tree, get the kids involved in the set up. Let them have some ornaments to hang up. Better yet, start a box with their very own ornaments which they are responsible for putting up and taking down each year!
4. Let your kids enjoy the fun-filled activities in this Christmas packet! If you are traveling, print out the pages and bring them along with you.
5. Download the Hiking Bingo App from the App Store (free to download) and get outside and explore for a while each day!



## Cranberry Brie

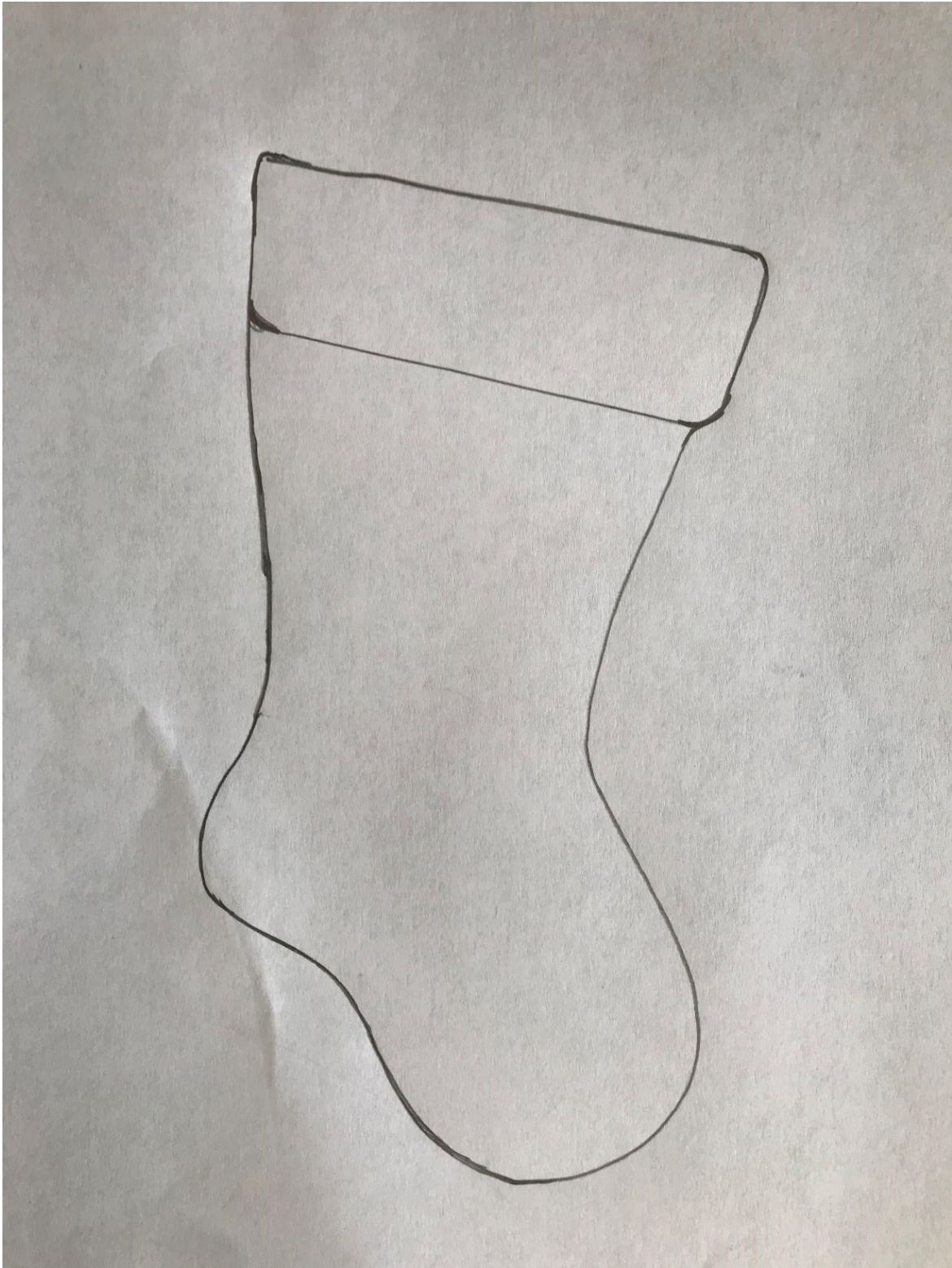
Need a quick and easy recipe for an appetizer? Try this easy Cranberry Brie recipe!

### Ingredients:

- 1 round brie
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup finely chopped (optionally toasted) pecans
- 3 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp honey

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees if you plan to toast the pecans. Then toast the pecans for 5 minutes, stirring halfway through.
2. Trim the rind from around the brie. Place the brie on a microwave safe plate.
3. Combine cranberries, pecans, and brown sugar. Sprinkle over the brie. Drizzle with honey. Cover and chill in the refrigerator until ready to heat and serve.
4. Microwave on high power for 1 1/2 to 2 minutes or until cheese is softened and gooey.
5. Serve with crackers of your choice or with apple and pear slices.



Color your Christmas stocking and use your imagination to draw items you'd like to find in it!

[Forthebusymoms.com](http://Forthebusymoms.com)



# CHRISTMAS BINGO!



Look at Christmas Lights	Sing a Christmas Song	Give someone a Card	Find a Sleigh/go Sledding	Find or Drink Some Milk
Help Make Dinner	Hang an Ornament	Make Hot Chocolate	Listen to a Christmas Song	Light a Candle
Give or Get a Gift	Call, Text, or Write to a Friend		Decorate a Christmas Tree	Play Outside for 30 Minutes
Find a Reindeer Picture	Make Cookies for Santa	Watch a Christmas Movie	Open an Advent Calendar	Take a Picture in a Santa Hat
Shake a Snow Globe	Make a Donation	Wear a Christmas Shirt	Draw a Candy Cane	Build, Draw or Find a Nativity

**BONUS:** Download the **Hiking Bingo App** for **FREE** from the App Store!

# Christmas Word Search



D	C	A	R	O	L	S	L	J	N
E	Y	O	C	O	O	K	I	E	S
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	N
E	G	N	E	G	H	Q	C	U	O
M	I	A	L	I	G	H	T	S	W
B	F	M	D	M	N	F	R	D	M
E	T	E	F	V	H	D	E	R	A
R	S	N	M	E	C	W	E	C	N
N	B	T	A	T	N	A	S	E	M
N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	R	R
I	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	O

Christmas

December

Jesus

Tree

Nativity

Advent

Gifts

Lights

Cookies

Stocking

Ornament

Snowman

Santa

Reindeer

Carols

# Craft Idea: Snowflake Chain

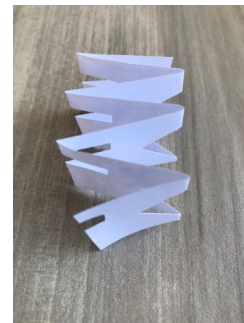
Step 1: Gather supplies: white paper, scissors, tape.



Step 2: Cut the white paper into approximately 1 inch wide strips across the width of the paper. You can make as many strips as you like.



Step 3: Fold each strip of paper like an accordion. Then cut unique shapes out of each folded strip.



Step 4: Open up each folded strip of paper and then tape the first one together to make a circle. Loop each strip of paper through the previous circle before taping. Once your snowflake chain is complete, hang up to use as a holiday decoration!

