

Historical Holidays Boredom Busters! Victorian Paper Cone Ornaments

Historical Context

In the 1840s, the Christmas tree was introduced to England by Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert. The royal Christmas tree was photographed and featured in a newspaper. This led to everyone in England wanting their very own Christmas tree for their home. **Norwegian firs**, a type of evergreen tree, were brought to England to meet the growing demand for Christmas trees. Small gifts were put under the trees to exchange later. The English decorated their trees with little toys, paper ornaments, biscuits, and small bags that contained sweets. Glass ornaments were very expensive and at first, only the wealthy could afford them. Sometimes unique glass ornaments were passed down from generation to generation.



Photo Credit: Town and Country Magazine (left); Recollections.co (right)

In the Victorian age, it was more common for Christmas tree decorations to be homemade. Instead of going to the store to buy decorations, the ladies of the house would spend hours making paper Christmas ornaments. A popular paper ornament many ladies made was the paper horn or paper cone. These cones would be made with colored paper and decorated with different fabrics, lace, or ribbons, and filled with candy, dates, fruit, or nuts. Friends and family would come by to admire the home-made decorations.

Activity: Make your own Victorian Paper Cone Ornament

Supplies

- Paper cone template
- Construction paper
- Glue (tacky glue works best)
- Markers or crayons
- Yarn or ribbon
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Optional, decorations (buttons, lace, doilies, etc.)
- Optional, filling (candy, fruit, nuts, etc.)

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Instructions

1. Print and cut out the paper cone template. (You may need to adjust the printing settings to scale to fit to paper in order to have both cones fit on the paper.)
2. Trace the paper cone template onto construction paper and cut out. Then you can decorate on only ONE side. Make sure to let this dry if you use glue to decorate.



3. After you're finished decorating, roll the paper into the cone.
4. Apply a small line of glue along the overlapping flap and hold the cone together for a minute until the glue dries enough to stay put. NOTE - Smaller children may need help with this task.



4. Add a handle by punching holes on opposite sides of the cone and tying a piece of yarn or ribbon to both sides.
5. Let the children put a few pieces of candy, small fruit, or nuts in their cones.

