

Tissue Paper Christmas “Stained Glass” Project

Suitable for children ages 9-14. May take 2 project sessions.

This attractive silhouette project can be lit up to shine at night. The designs are flexible so this can be adapted to illustrate various Christmas texts.



Materials needed for each student

- A piece of black or brown lightweight cardboard approximately 11in x 17 in (28cm x 43cm). This can be cut from a larger piece of poster board.
- Blue tissue paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencils
- Shapes to trace (optional)
- Small fat candle (votive or tea light) in non-flammable container

Method

1. Fold the shorter sides of the cardboard inwards until they meet. (You will have a circular “loop.”) Keeping the ends in the center in front of you, crease the card to make three sections. The center section will be twice as long as the ones on each side. The sides will meet in the middle when folded.
2. Keeping the sections folded, trim the top to create a outline shape (see illustration).
3. Cut out the center of each panel leaving a ½” (2cm) border around each panel. Save the card from the middle of each section to cut designs.
4. Glue tissue to the back of the frame. Trim edges to fit.
5. Draw or trace and cut out shapes for design. Encourage the students to make bold designs—fill the space. Here are a few ideas:

Nativity scene: Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the center panel with a star overhead. One or two wise men on each of the side panels bringing gifts. Add camels, furniture, outline of buildings, *etc.* as desired.

Nativity scene 2: Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the center panel with animals gathered around (sheep, oxen, doves). Shepherds with sheep or angels in the side panels.

Prophecy Scene: Tree of Jesse in center panel with Jesus as an infant at the top. The side panels can depict the wolf and lamb, leopard and goat or calf and lion together. For a simpler design, the side panels could depict the Star of Jacob or the Scepter of Israel.

6. Glue designed pieces on to the tissue.
7. Display with lighted candle in flame-proof container behind the scene.