

Open-ended Notebooking Pages



I hope you enjoy these Christmas notebooking pages (I sure did enjoy creating them!).

They are not meant to be taken too seriously. They are as openended as possible, but with some direction for those whose minds tend to wander, or for those who have a million ideas but need to land on one (like me). There are no right or wrong answers, and if you don't complete them all, or find a page never gets filled in because it sets you on a jolly journey and you leave the page far behind, that's perfectly fine (encouraged, in fact).

I think there is something here for any and all age groups and skill levels, except perhaps the tiniest. Some pages you could even do together (such as the Handel's Messiah page).

Homeschooling is stressful enough, and when you add the holidays on top, it can be nerve-wrecking. Why not relax and have some fun? As long as you are all engaged and learning something together, it still counts, right? Just make sure and count reading and writing (even making lists) as language arts, calculating the cost of gifts as math, and learning about Saint Nicholas as history and geography. Oh, and don't forget all the baking and making candy are scientific experimentation, at least around here they often are.

And, above all, celebrate Jesus. He is so worthy. He left it all to live (and die) here with us--so amazing I will never get over it.

We give because He first gave.

Blessings,

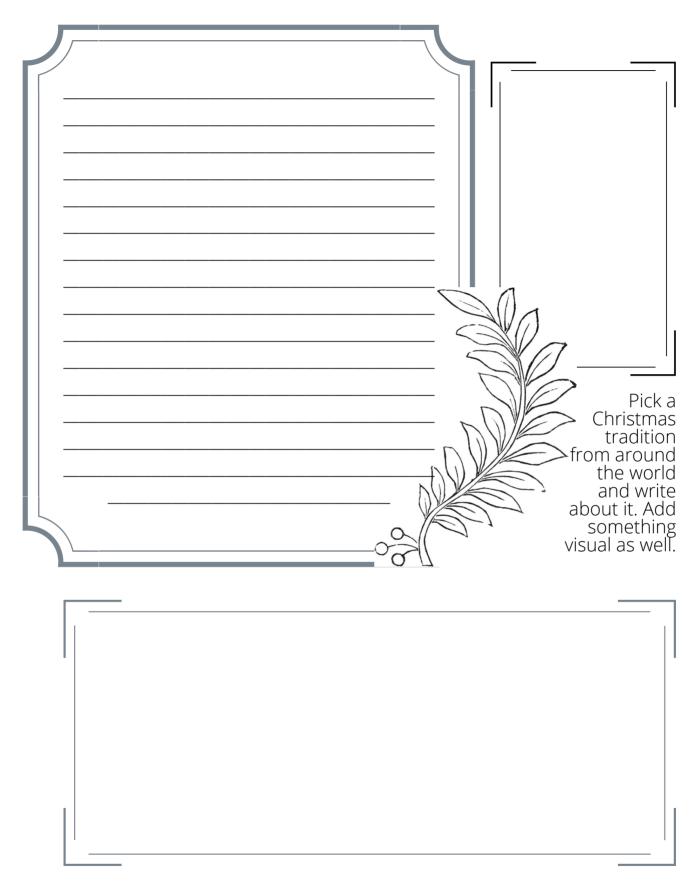
Sherry

Look for different pictures of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) from different times and different countries. Then either draw them or print them out and paste them here.

While you're at it, find out who Saint Nicholas really was. After you read about him, give an oral narration of his life, maybe even do a little play or puppet show. Don't you wonder why they haven't made a movie about his real story--it sure would be worth watching, don't you think?



Use colors, markers, bits of paper, sequins, or other things to trim this tree for Christmas.

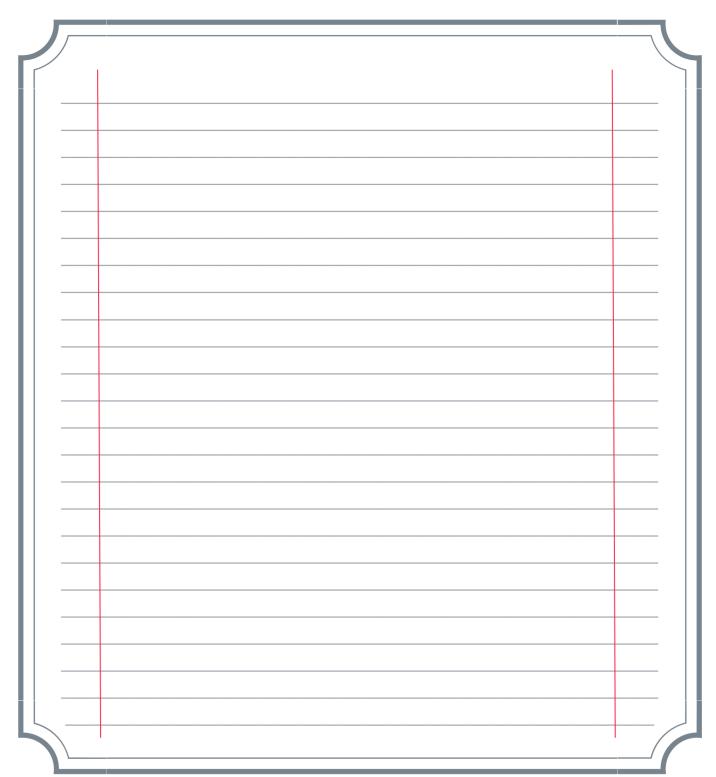


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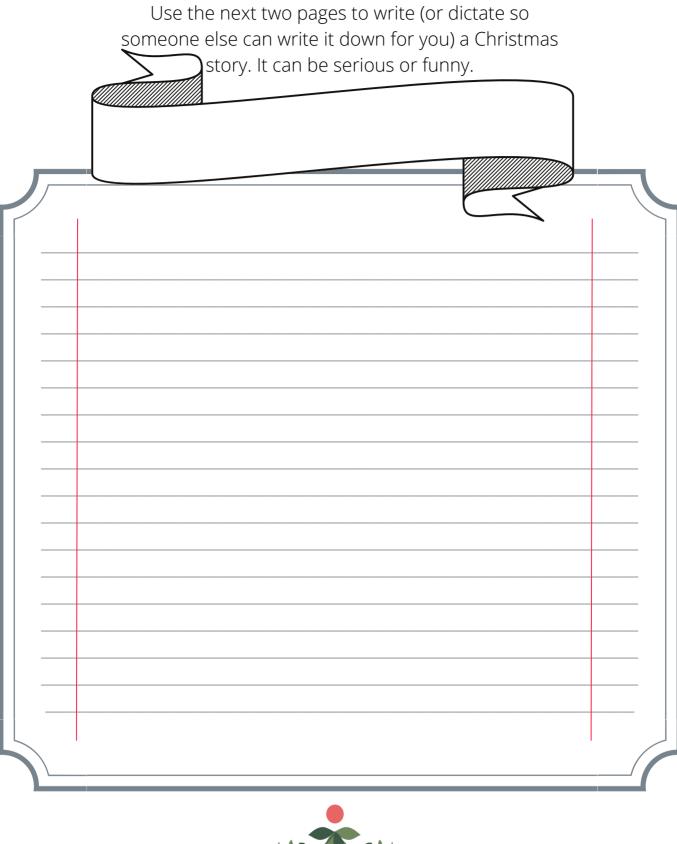


Use these pages to write down a special Christmas memory (or you can dictate and have someone else write it down for you.

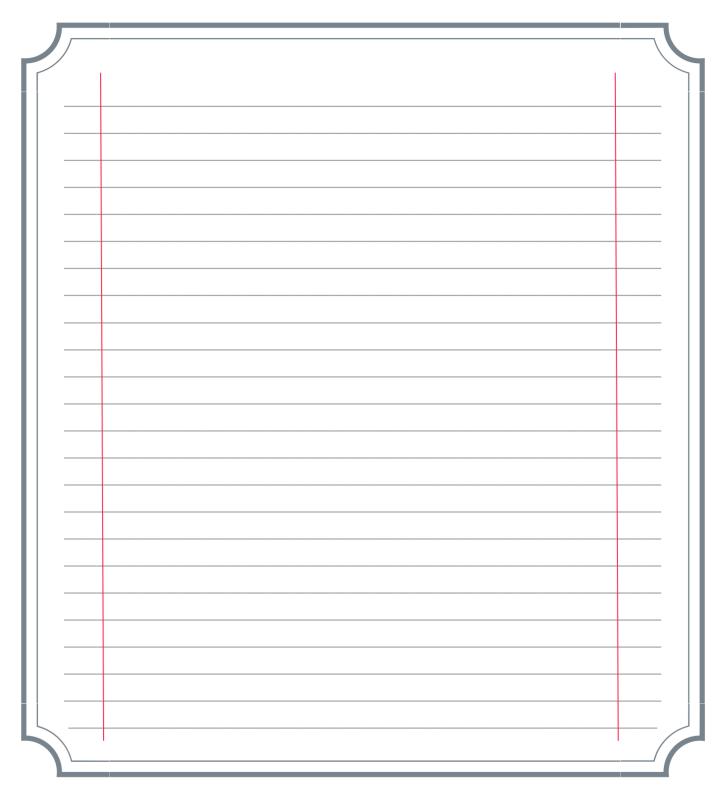






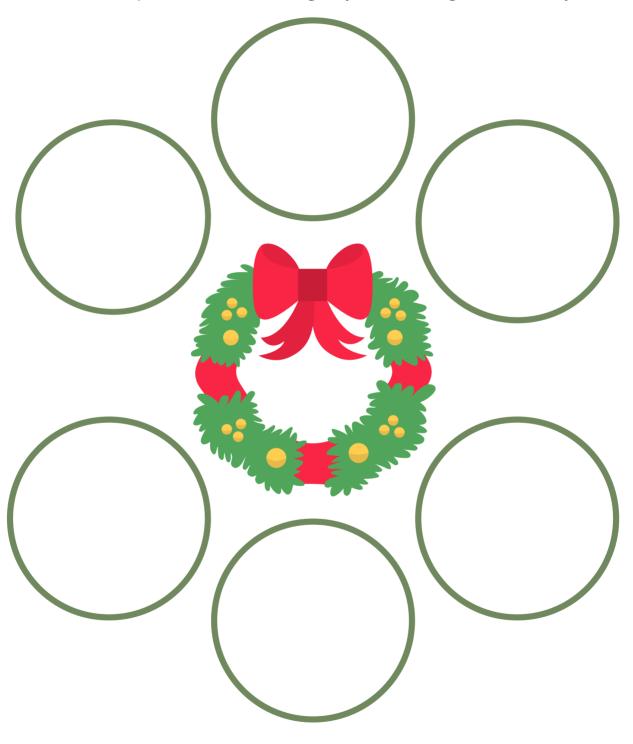








Create your own decorations. Use all sorts of things, including glitter, stickers, etc. You can cut them out and use them directly, or you could put them on a stronger piece of paper, wood, etc. Make sure and put a hole for a string so you can hang it more easily.



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You can use these elements to create your own Christmas card which you can cut out on the next page (or you can draw your own). Write something sweet inside.



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These are old engravings of the Nativity, or the true story of Christmas. On the page after next are the scripture references for the pictures. It may be fun to take the pictures and the scriptures and match them while putting them all into the correct order. The pages following can be used for this.

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"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:8-14 KJV

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus." Luke 1:26-31 KJV

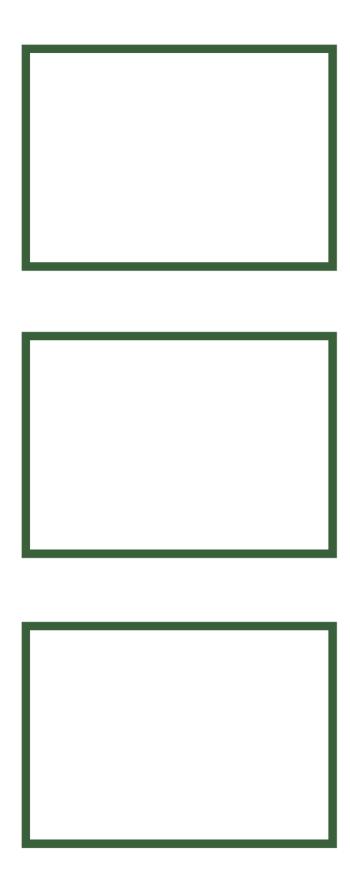
"And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped Ahim; and opening their treasures they offered unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:11 ASV

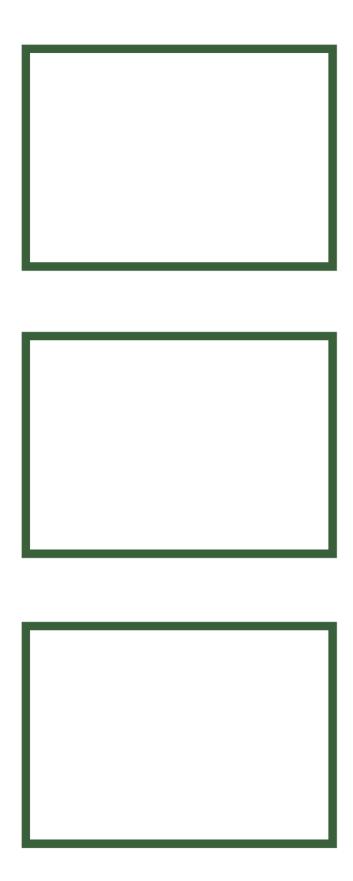
"...behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son." Matthew 2:13-15

"...and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way." Luke 2:9-12 KJV

"And it came to pass, when the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found both Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger." Luke 2:15-16 ASV

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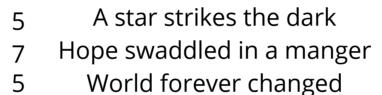




Have you ever written Haiku? It is an ancient Japanese form of poetry that includes intense, poetic language and references to nature. The fun is that it consists of only three lines and there is no rhyming (yay!).

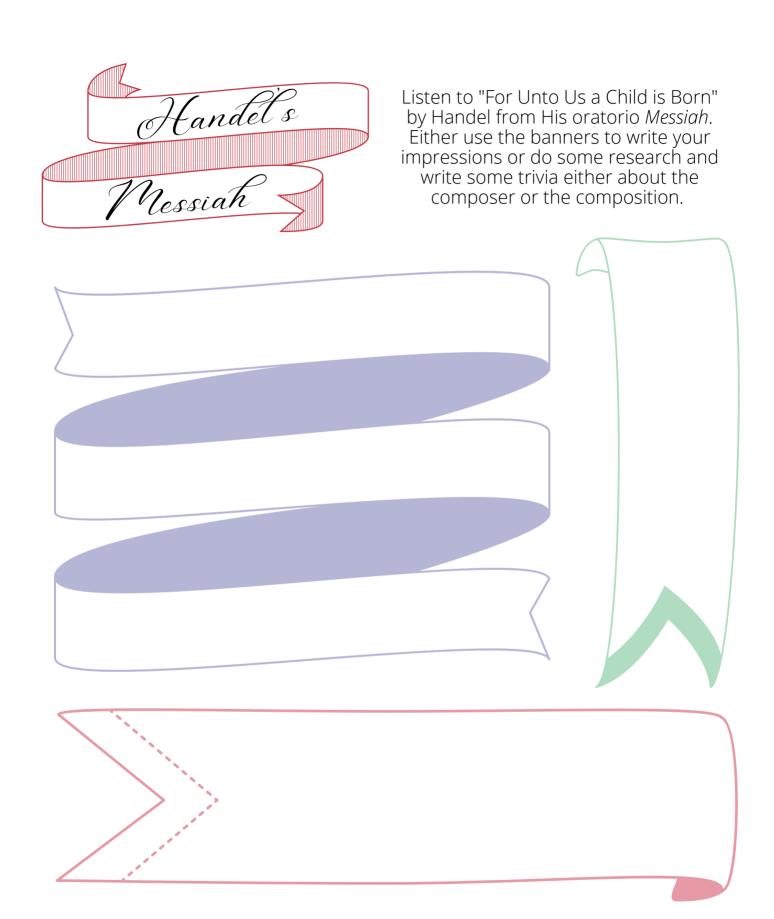
The first line is five syllables long, the second line is seven syllables long, and the third line is five syllables long. Here are a few examples:

- 5 Wind slicing through coats
- 7 Shivering birds cling to twigs
- 5 A warm light gives hope



Try making a few yourself. You can think of syllables as "claps." Use a pencil because you will need to erase a lot.

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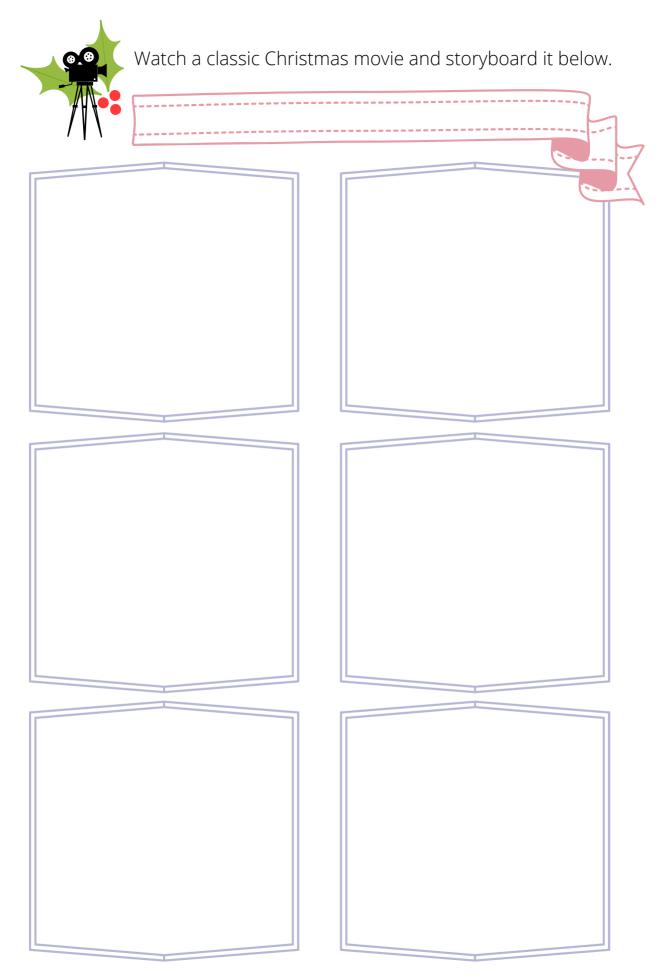


If you have some money and want to buy some gifts for others, write down your ideas and find the prices to calculate whether or not you have enough money.

Or, you could pretend you have a certain amount of money and pretend you are purchasing gifts with it just for fun.



On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of Christmas words. Then scramble them in the list above and hand this page to a relative or friend and have them try and unscramble them.



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Half	Original	Double	Quadruple
1/4	1/2	1	2
1/6	1/3	2/3	1 1/3
1/8	1/4	1/2	1
3/4	1 1/2	3	6
3/8	3/4	1 1/2	3
2/6	2/3	1 1/3	2 2/3
2/3	1 1/3	2 2/3	5 1/3

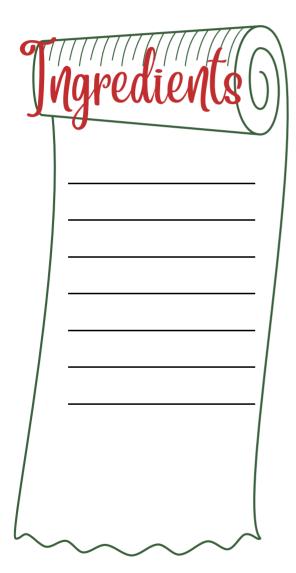


Goodies

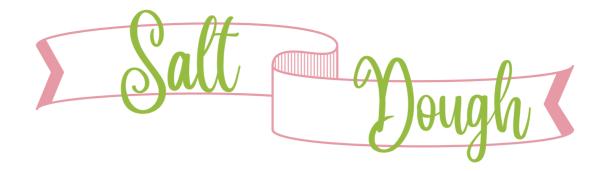


Find a good recipe, change the fractions using the chart on the last page, and write in the ingredients and directions. Then try it out and enjoy!

Temp.



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Mix flour and salt together in a bowl. Slowly mix water, a little bit at a time, into flour mixture until dough is smooth and easy to handle (not sticky). Knead dough for 10 minutes and let rest for 20 minutes.

• 2 cups flour

• 1 cup salt

 Enough water for a stiff but not sticky dough

Then shape. 3/4" thick is too much--keep it under this. If you want to get bigger, such as the shape of a ball, use a ball of tin foil and build on top of that.

Bake your creations in an oven preheated to 250 degrees Fahrenheit until they are dry and hard (about 2 hours)..

