

Scandinavian Christmas Crafts

Straw ornaments

The ideal time to begin thinking about these ornaments is right after the wheat or oat harvest, when farms have plenty of straw on hand. This straw works well, but is often unclean, so care must be taken. Straw can also be purchased from craft suppliers and basket making supply houses.

Straw Star

To make a basic straw star, you will need 3 and 4-inch lengths of straw, a small amount of colored paper, thread or string and some simple clay or sticky paper. Make a small flat disk of the clay or paper. Put this on the work surface, then take 2 of the 4 inch straws and push them onto the disk forming an X. Take a third longer one and lay it across the X. Then begin filling in with shorter straws between the longer ones until you have a pleasingly full star. Take colored paper (red or gold looks nice) and cut small circles to cover where all the straws cross. Using a needle, string through one of the straws with the thread or string and tie to form a hanger.

Candles

Dip or roll beeswax candles for your windows and to use on the table and Advent Wreath.

Advent Wreaths

Using a ring of evergreen or holly form a ring of greens. It is easiest to do this on a round tray or pan—a pizza pan works well. Insert 4 candleholders spaced around the ring, being careful to have them tall enough to separate them from the greens. Light the first one the first Sunday of Advent, the first and second the second, etc. Sing some songs while lighting, or begin reading Christmas stories.

Paper Baskets

Directions on separate page