

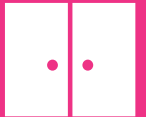
CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN



GET CREATIVE



20 MINUTES



IN THE
CUPBOARD

AIM

Get ready for Christmas by creating a snowman Christmas countdown calendar, to tick off the days. Alternatively, you can use it as a traditional advent calendar starting at 1 (1st December) moving on daily through to 24.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Paper plate
- Coloured card
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pens
- Paper Fasteners (pins)



GET CREATIVE: CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

THEME: ARTY & CRAFTY



LEADER PREPARATION

Make sure you have all the equipment needed for the activity. You may also want to pre-cut some of the shapes, depending on the time available and the ability of your group.



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

- 1 On black card, cut out 2 large black circles (eyes) and 5 smaller black circles (mouth).
- 2 Using glue, stick the shapes onto the paper plate to form the eyes and mouth.
- 3 On the black piece of card, draw and cut out a snowman's hat. Stick the hat to the top of the paper plate.
- 4 Using the orange piece of card, draw and cut out a carrot shaped nose for the snowman.
- 5 With a paper fastener, push a hole through the top of the carrot and the centre of the paper plate. Fasten the pin into place.
- 6 Write the numbers 1 – 25 around the edge of the plate.

Now your group can count down to Christmas by moving the carrot around the plate to match the days left until Christmas Day.



DID YOU KNOW?

Advent is an important part of the Christian calendar, dating back to the 1800's. It means 'coming' and it's the period before Christmas, counting the days down until Christmas Day (25th December). Advent Calendars help us to build up to Christmas, acknowledging that it's not just any celebration but something extra special and worth waiting for. Although many will have advent calendars which contain a chocolate there are other ways in which we mark advent. Churches will usually use candles to mark advent, lighting candles on each of the 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Day they light a special fifth candle in the middle of the advent wreath, along with all the rest.



IDEAS TO TAKE THIS FURTHER...

Spend a little bit of time talking about advent and the countdown to the birth of baby Jesus.



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

When working with scissors, make sure you are using appropriate scissors for the age group and that there is appropriate supervision.