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## How to make the Advent wreath

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Advent is a time to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for Christ coming as a Baby at Christmas and for His Second Coming at the end of time. So Advent is a great time of joy and penitence, which is represented in the Advent Wreath. (The purple candles symbolise penitence and the pink one joy.) So here is a fun Advent Wreath craft you can make and use together.

**Time needed:** 30-45 minutes

**Materials needed:**

- Green tissue paper (2 sheets) - they do not have to be the same shade of green!
- Green sugar paper or card (any paper will do – you can paint or colour the paper if it is white)
- Purple sugar paper or card (any paper will do – you can paint or colour the paper if it is white)
- Pink sugar paper or card (any paper will do – you can paint or colour the paper if it is white)
- 4 long yellow pipe cleaners
- 4 empty cardboard toilet paper rolls (or 2 empty cardboard paper towel rolls cut in half)
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Glue

Stapler (optional)

**Wreath Directions:**

1. Fold the green paper in half lengthwise. Cut in a straight line along the fold. You will only need 1 of these pieces.
2. Take that piece of green paper and fold in half lengthwise again. Cut in a straight line along the fold. You should now have two long, thin pieces of green paper.
3. Take both pieces of paper and either glue or staple the ends together so you have one very long, skinny piece of green paper. This is the base of the wreath. Set it aside to dry.
4. Take the green tissue paper, and fold in half twice so it is close to the shape of a square. Cut along all of the folds. You should have 4 squares. Cut each square into thirds. Then, cut each third into thirds. Repeat for the second piece of tissue paper. You should now have 36 squares per sheet of tissue paper so 72 squares in total. (Don't worry about the cuts being even or straight - it does not need to be perfect!)
5. Gently crinkle all of the tissue paper squares so it kind of looks like a flower.
6. Lay out the long strip of green paper. Starting about one half inch from one end, vertically draw a line of glue, and set 3 of the crinkled tissue paper squares on it. Continue doing this all the way down the green paper, keeping the crinkled paper squares tight together, until you get to about one half inch from the other end. Save 3 crinkled tissue paper squares.



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7. Now staple or glue together the ends of the paper to form a circle. Once dry, draw a line of glue over the seam and use your 3 saved pieces of crinkled paper to cover it. Let the wreath dry.

### ***Candle Directions:***

1. Fold each pipe cleaner in half and twist the folded end.
2. Place a piece of masking tape over the opening of each toilet paper roll.
3. Using the wire end of the piper cleaners, poke two holes fairly close together in the centre of the masking tape on the toilet paper rolls. Stick one end of each pipe cleaner in each hole. Gently move the pipe cleaner up and down in the tape till it moves fairly easily. (It should look like the picture here before the pipe cleaner is twisted) Set aside.
4. Fold the pink and purple paper sheets in half. Cut in a straight line along the folds. You will only need 1 of the pink rectangles and 3 of the purple ones.
5. Wrap one piece around the toilet paper roll so the bottom of the paper and the bottom of the toilet paper roll line up (the twisted pipe cleaner end is the top). The construction paper will be significantly taller than the toilet paper roll. This is what you want - then you will not be able to see the cardboard! You can trim the paper a bit if you like.
6. Then, draw a line of glue along the long, trimmed edge of the paper and glue the ends together forming a cylindrical candle around the toilet paper roll. Hold until dry. Repeat for each candle.
7. Push each yellow pipe cleaner down into the candle so that it can't be seen (but you can still easily reach it!).



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### *Your Advent Wreath:*

Now, you're ready! Place the candles freely and evenly along the inside edge of the wreath in a place of prominence in your house, like your dining room table. Every week, you light one candle **by pulling up the yellow pipe cleaner.**

The candles are lit in this order:

- purple on 29<sup>th</sup> November,
- purple on 6<sup>th</sup> December,
- pink on 13<sup>th</sup> December,
- purple on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

If you like, you could also make an addition white candle to go in the middle. This is known as the 'Christ candle' and it can be 'lit' on Christmas day.

