

## Get Smart with Art Lesson

### Holiday Celebrations

Lesson Created by the Virgin Valley Artists Association of Mesquite, NV

For Parents: In this lesson, students will learn about holiday celebrations of the past and create their own holiday gifts.

Supplies Needed: Students may choose from the following supplies to create their art- paper and pencil, markers, acrylic or watercolor paint & paper, pastels, brushes and canvas, or recycled materials. If your child resides in Mesquite, NV or the Virgin Valley area and needs supplies for this lesson, send email to [lindaharrisvva@gmail.com](mailto:lindaharrisvva@gmail.com).

For Students:



Christmas in the Old West was a difficult time. Pioneers who lived on the prairies often endured savage December winds and blizzards. But early settlers were determined to keep the holidays alive and often decorated their homes with simple Christmas trees and homemade decorations from items they found outside- pinecones, berries, and evergreen branches. Many pioneer women baked weeks ahead of time for the holidays, preparing salt-rising bread, baked beans with salt pork and molasses, vinegar and dried-apple pies, and fresh game if possible. Gifts were homemade and included corn husk dolls, sachets, carved wooden toys, pillows, and embroidered hankies.

Your turn: What makes family holidays special for you? The Get Smart with Art Students in the classroom in Mesquite, NV all agreed that holidays were special for them because of the time spent with family and friends. They made ornaments and gifts out of recycled cards and scraps of cloth. What kinds of gifts can you make? Have fun and be creative!



This lesson was designed and written by Linda Harris, VVAA member.