

'Home' for the Holidays

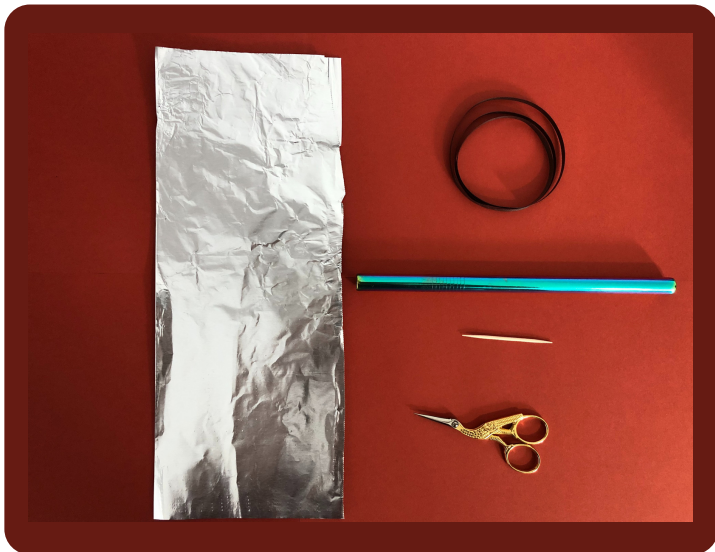
Virtual Holiday History from the King's Chapel History Program

Homemade Foil Ornaments



Christmas lights look their best when they have something shiny and sparkly to reflect their light off of. Some of the earliest commercially-produced Christmas ornaments in the late 19th century were "reflectors" to place behind candles on the tree and metal icicles that also reflected light.

Try you hand at making one of these reflective ornaments, made with household items you may already have in your kitchen!



Materials:

- Foil (sheet or cupcake liner)
- Ribbon or string
- Straw, pencil, etc.
- Toothpick or needle
- Scissors

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Icicles



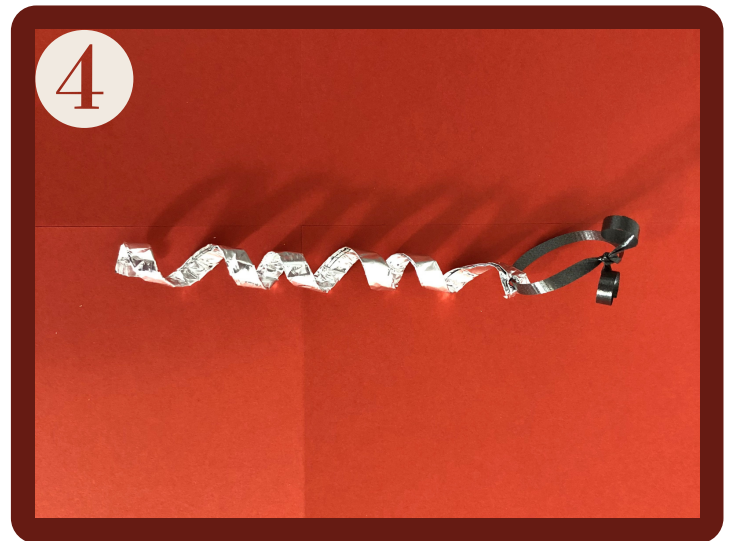
Fold your sheet of foil in half until it is long and narrow. You can also cut a narrow piece of foil instead.



Wrap the foil around the straw or pencil to form a tight coil.



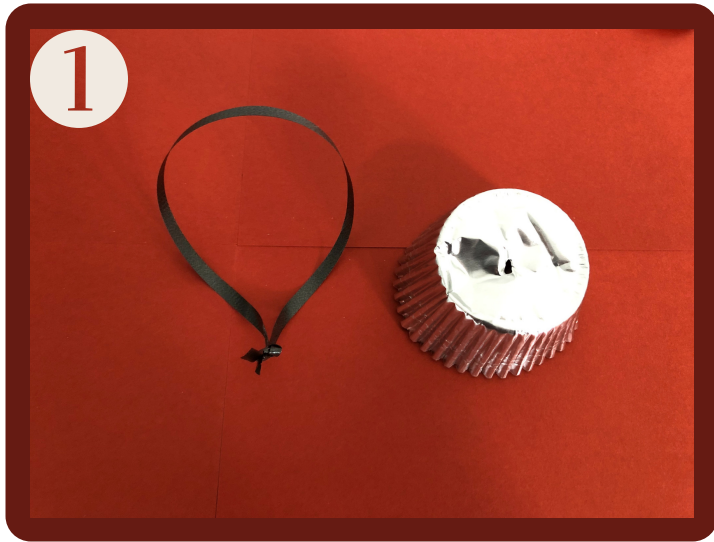
Slide the foil off of the straw and gently pull on each end to slightly stretch out the coil.



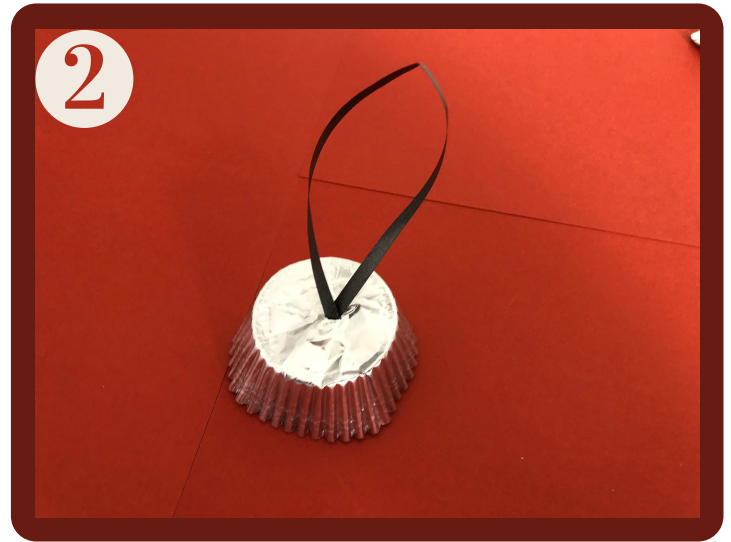
Use a toothpick or needle to make a small hole in the top of the coil. Pass the ribbon through, and your icicle is ready for the tree!

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Bells



If you have foil cupcake liners, punch a hole in the top. Tie an overhand knot in a piece of ribbon.



Slip the looped ribbon through the hole in the liner, and your bell is ready for the tree!



To make a bell with a sheet of foil, begin rolling a corner of the sheet to form a cone shape, continuing until you've reached the end.



Pinch one end to create the top and flare out the open edge to create the bell itself. You can put this directly on the tree or punch a hole in it for a string.