



## VICTORIAN HOLIDAYS

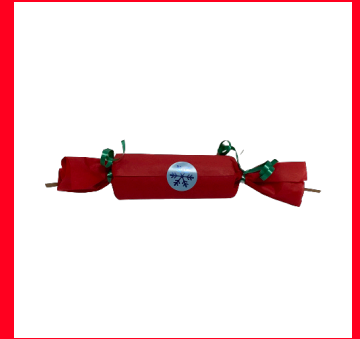
Many holiday traditions originated over 150 years ago during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). Victoria and her husband Albert liked to spend the holidays with friends and family. This tradition spread across the British Empire. Family-friendly activities became very popular such as decorating the Christmas tree, exchanging gifts, and feasting.

Tom Smith was a British candy maker. He visited Paris in 1847 looking for new ideas. When he spotted a colourfully wrapped twist of sugared almonds in a shop window he was inspired. Back in England, he created new candies. They became very popular but not as a holiday treat. One night while enjoying the warmth of a log fire, he struck upon the idea of making his candies go bang. He worked out how to make a controlled explosion using a saltpeter friction strip. His firecracker sweets were an immediate hit - even more so when he put paper hats and trinkets inside. Christmas crackers had elements of much older winter holiday rituals: fire, costume, and celebration.

The first Christmas card was designed by John Calcott Horsley in 1843 for Sir Henry Cole. Cole wanted an easy way to send holiday greetings to his friends and clients. He had 1,000 cards printed and each one cost 1 shilling (about 5 cents). This cost was too high for most people but the idea was a hit. By the 1870s, sending Christmas cards was common practice.



# CHRISTMAS CRACKER INSTRUCTIONS



## Craft kit materials:

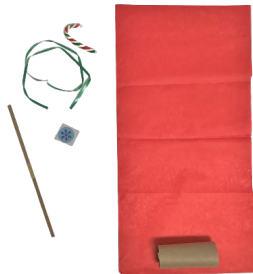
- 1 sheet coloured tissue paper
- 1 paper roll
- 1 cracker snap
- 1 mini candy cane

- 2 pieces of coloured ribbon
- 1 holiday sticker

## You will also need:

- Scissors (optional, to curl ribbon)

1. Lay 1 sheet of tissue paper flat. Place the paper roll on the tissue paper and roll it tight.



2. Use a sticker to hold the tissue in place.



3. Insert the cracker snap through the centre of the paper roll.



4. Gather the tissue paper at one end. Fasten it tightly with a piece of ribbon using a knot or bow.



5. Insert the candy cane into the centre of the paper roll. Use a second piece of ribbon to tie up the open end. Curl the ribbon with the scissors.



6. To break the Christmas cracker, hold the ends tightly and pull. **TIP:** Pinch one end of the cracker snap in each hand to get it to pop.



Need a few pointers? Catch our instructional video on the **Museum @ Home** section of our website: [www.heritagemuseum.ca](http://www.heritagemuseum.ca)

Lambton Heritage Museum wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!