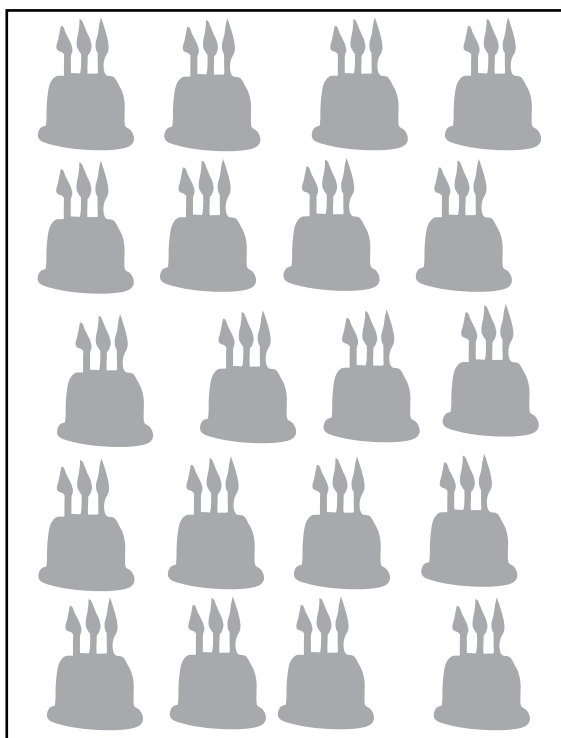
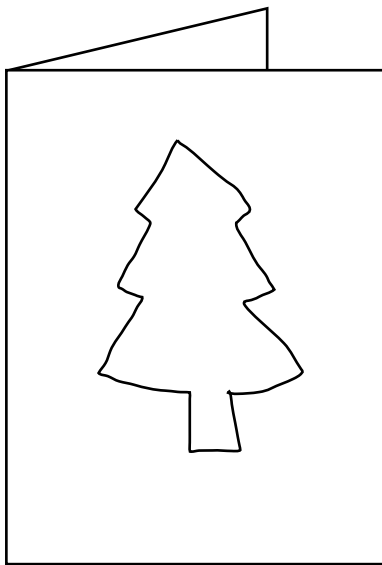


Stencils

You'll need:

- polystyrene trays (washed meat containers are good, as are empty takeaway trays)
- pencils or pens
- a selection of different coloured paints
- paintbrushes
- scissors or a craft knife
- paper



Draw a simple design onto a polystyrene tray with a pencil or ball point pen. When making your design be aware that the parts you cut out will be the parts that end up being coloured. Don't make the design too tricky or fiddly. Simplicity is the key.

Use sharp scissors or a craft knife to cut out the design. (Adults may need to help with this part). Then, position the stencil over a piece of paper, hold it down securely and paint inside the cut-out section. Carefully remove the stencil to reveal your creation.

It's easy peasy to make things like wrapping paper or simple cards using this technique. Think about what events may be coming up e.g Valentine's Day = heart shapes, Christmas = bells, Christmas trees or holly leaf shapes, birthdays = balloons or cakes.

The stencils can be washed once you've finished using them and re-used again. Build up a collection of different stencils to help create some truly wonderful pieces.