

Colonial America Decorative Arts

Pennsylvania Dutch Designs



Christmas Stockings
Grades 4-6

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Tracers



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Colonial America Decorative Arts Pennsylvania Dutch Designs Christmas Stockings

Grades 4-6

This “Read and Follow Directions” activity will give your students practice for standardized tests, which typically have several items of this nature. They’ll also have a lovely Christmas stocking for your classroom. The activity has three parts— “Designing the Stocking”, making the stocking, and, if you wish, sewing two stockings together so they can actually be stuffed. Each part has a different worksheet so you can choose how far you wish to take the activity.

Objective: *Students will design a stocking using Pennsylvania Dutch motifs, that “speaks” a simple message. They will read and follow the directions to create a Christmas stocking using Pennsylvania Dutch designs.*

Preparation:

1. Print: page 2: 1 copy, single sided, on copy paper.

“**Planning a Stocking**” **Worksheet**—page 3: 1 copy/student, single sided, on copy paper.

Individual directions—pages 4 and 7: 1 copy/student on copy paper (or on cover stock if you want to reuse the directions). You may wish to laminate them for future (lifetime) use.

Class sized poster directions—pages 5-6 and 8-9: 1 copy, single sided, on cover stock; tape posters together on the back, laminate, and trim.

Stocking Tracer—page 10—10 copies, single sided, on cover stock. Cut out the tracers.

Motif Tracers—page 11—10 copies, on cover stock. Have volunteers cut them out for you.

2. Use the image (above left) to label a manila envelope to store the tracers.
3. Gather the materials and set them out in your classroom so they are easy to access.



Uses:

- If your students haven’t had much practice with this type of activity, read the directions together and discuss any questions.
- Have students complete the worksheet, “Designing a Stocking”, if you wish.
- Have students to complete the craft by reading and following the directions—independently, or with guided practice.
- Allow students to share their stockings with the class. You may wish to have them “read” the meanings of the designs.
- Use the motif tracers for alphabetizing or sorting, sentence construction, or 20 questions games.
- This is also great material for a geometry lesson in symmetry, and flips, twists, and turns.



Designing a Stocking

The German settlers of Pennsylvania developed a style of art called Pennsylvania Dutch. The motifs (moh TEEFS), or the designs, were simplified objects of nature, colored with bright colors. Each motif and color had a special meaning, and each design offered a special "prayer" or "blessing". Use this worksheet to help you create a stocking that "speaks" a simple message. The message may tell about you, your hopes or dreams for the season, or something that is important to you. You can add a couple of your own motifs to the chart. Draw and name the design, and write in its meaning. Make sure it fits with the Pennsylvania Dutch pattern. Draw the shapes you want to use on the stocking, and then color them with colors that "tell" your message.











green = life, growth
red = feelings, creative

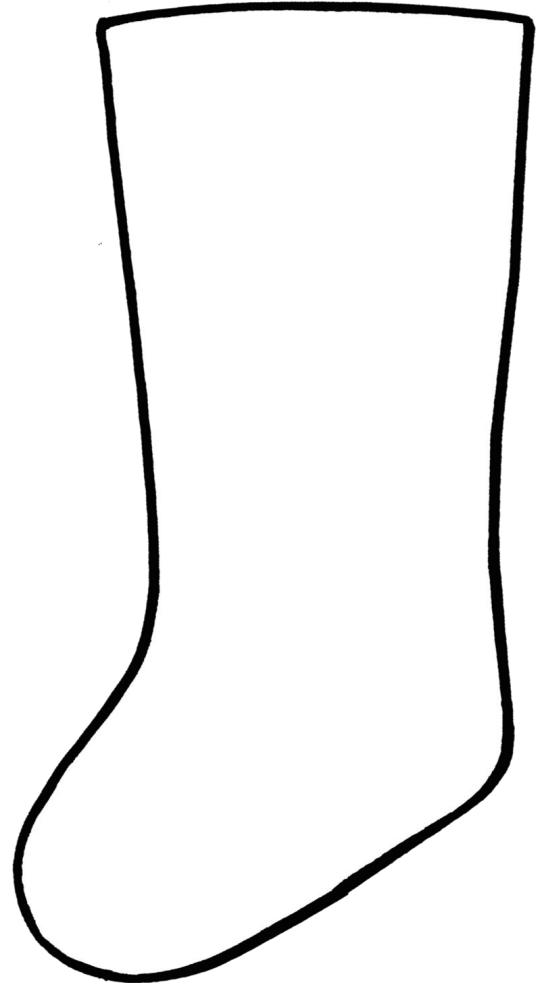
yellow = good health, God
blue = peace and calm

orange = success
brown = earth, friends

black = safety
white = clean

Design Meanings

	star	Good Will Safety
	heart	Love
	tulip	Hope Trust
	pineapple	Friendship
	oak leaf	Strength
	scallops	Smooth Sailing
	bird	Good Luck Happiness
	rain drops	Showers of Blessing
	wheat	Abundance
	sun	Growth Warmth



Pennsylvania Dutch Designs

Christmas Stocking

Materials

- tag board tracers in Pennsylvania Dutch motifs
- white, red, blue, yellow, brown, green, and orange construction paper
- stocking tracer
- Pennsylvania Dutch design tracers
- scissors
- paste or glue



Directions

1. Trace a stocking on a piece of 9"X12" construction paper. Cut it out.
2. Choose some Pennsylvania Dutch motifs. Trace them onto construction paper and cut them out. Think about what the shapes and colors mean before you choose them. Arrange the pieces on your stocking. When you are happy with the arrangement, glue the pieces down. Let it dry.
3. Clean up your mess.

Pennsylvania Dutch Designs

Christmas Stocking

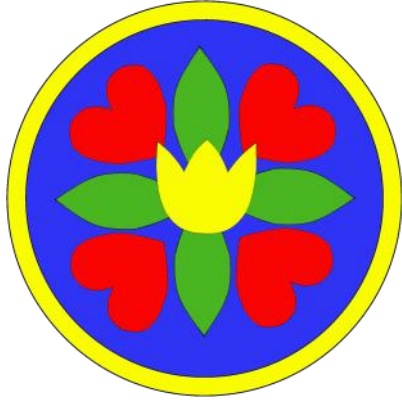
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Directions

1. Trace a stocking on a piece of 9"X12" construction paper.
Cut it out.
2. Choose some Pennsylvania Dutch motifs. Trace them onto construction paper and cut them out. Think about what the shapes and colors mean before you choose them.
3. Lay out the pieces on your stocking. When you are happy with the arrangement, glue the pieces down. Let it dry.
4. Clean up your mess.



Pennsylvania Dutch Designs

Materials

- decorated stocking
- paper clips (2 or 3)
- hole punch
- roving—about 36" per stocking



Directions

To make a two piece stocking, complete these directions.

1. Trace another stocking on a piece of 9"X12" construction paper. Cut it out.
2. Place the second stocking cutout behind the one decorated with motifs, and paper clip them together. Punch holes around the outside of the stocking, making the holes about 1/2 inch apart and 1/2 inch in from the outside edge of the stocking.
3. Sew the two stockings together with the roving. Wrap some tape around the end of the roving to make a needle, and take the paper clips off just before you reach them. Tie a knot in each end, and leave a loop on one side for hanging.
4. Clean up your mess. Be sure to pick up all your punched holes!

Pennsylvania Dutch Designs

Christmas Stocking



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- paper clips (2 or 3)
- hole punch
- roving—about 36" per stocking
- tape



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Christmas Stocking Tracer

Print onto 8.5X11 inch tag board or cover stock, and cut to make tracers. Make enough for the size of your group. (I usually make 1 tracer for every 3 children.) You can save the tracers and use them for years to come!

