

History To-Go Box

Holiday Lights

Activity Booklet

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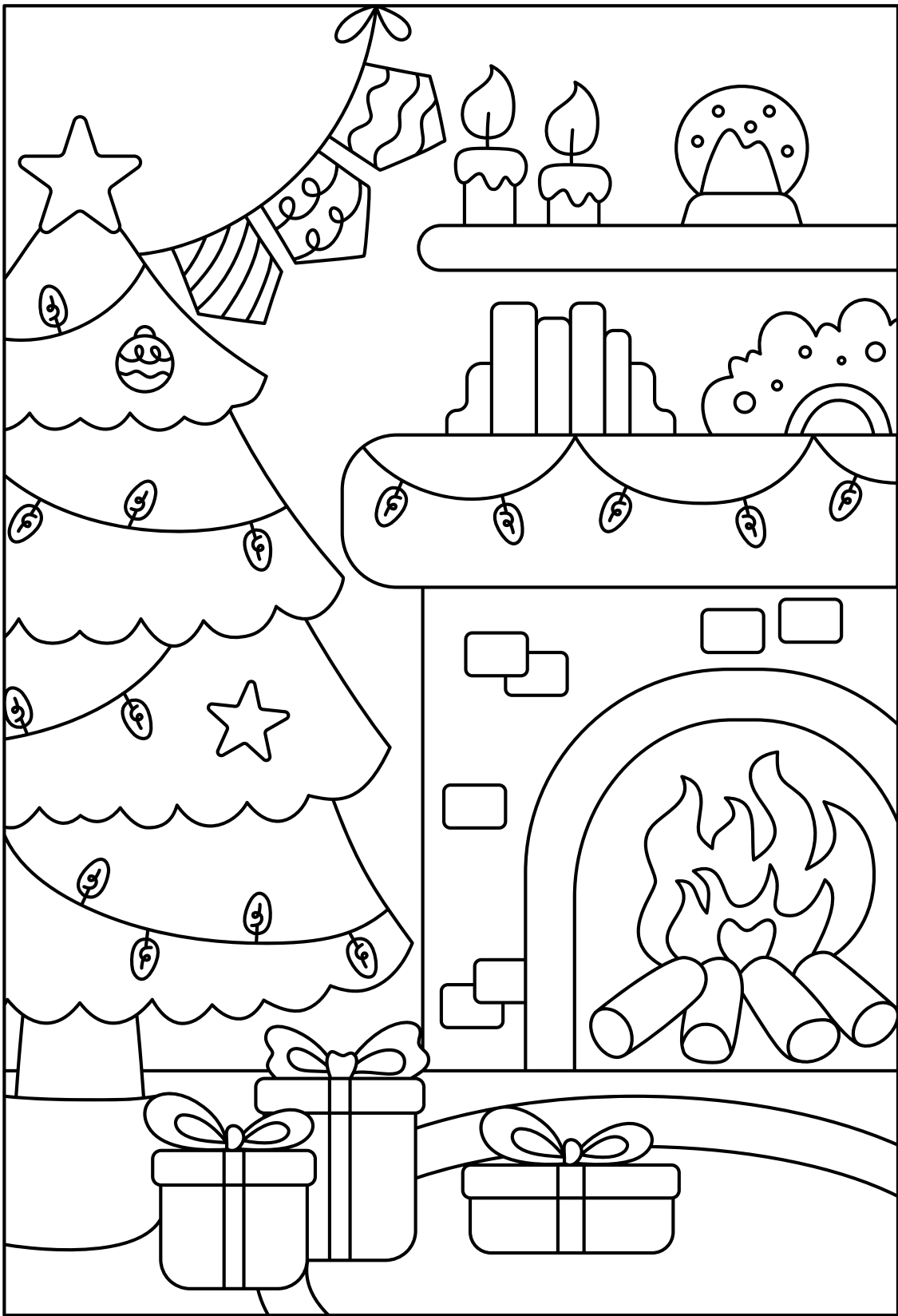
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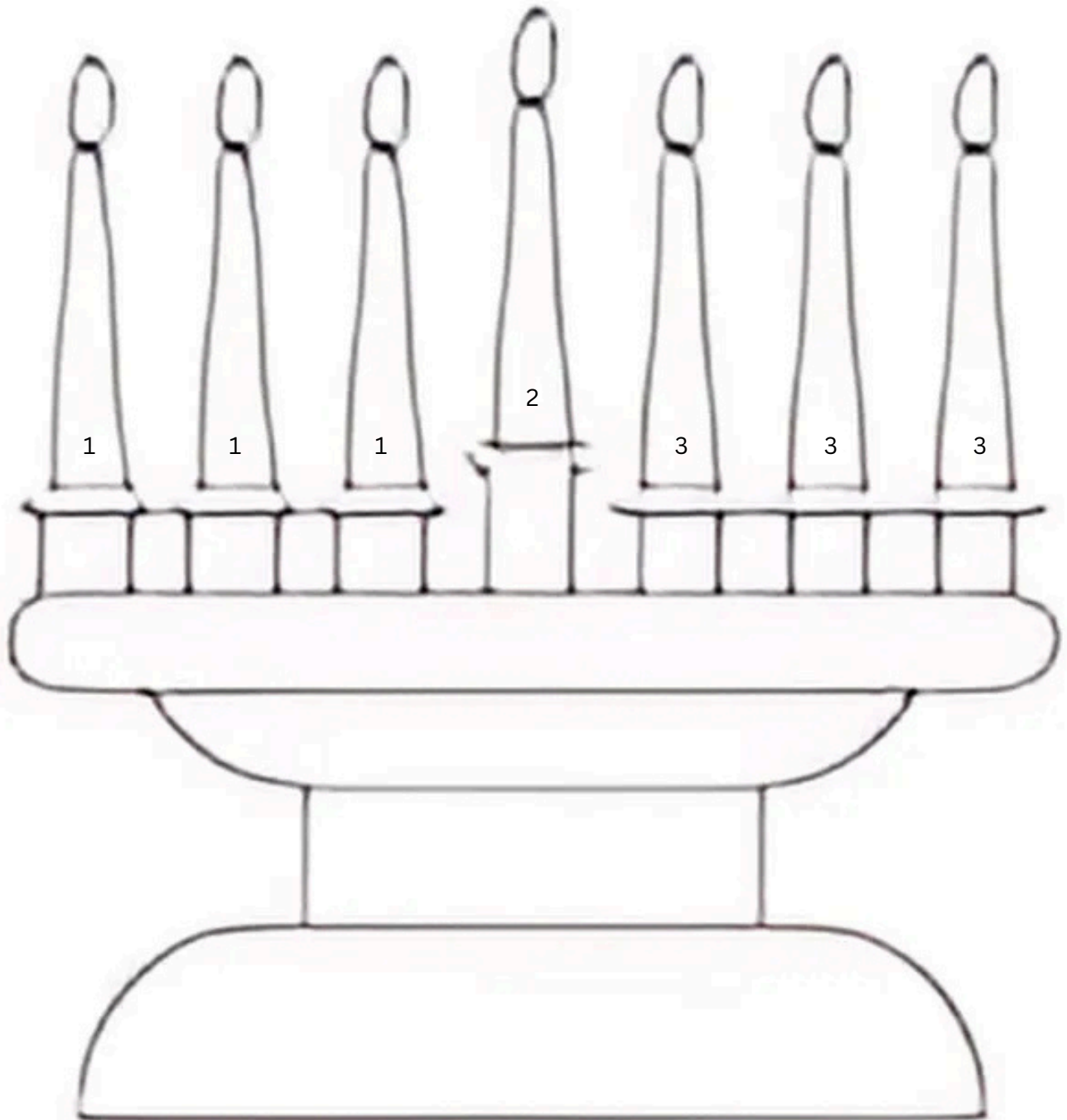
Christmas Lights Craft

Want to learn more about Winter Holidays or Electricity?
Check out the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex's
History To-Go Box archives on our website!

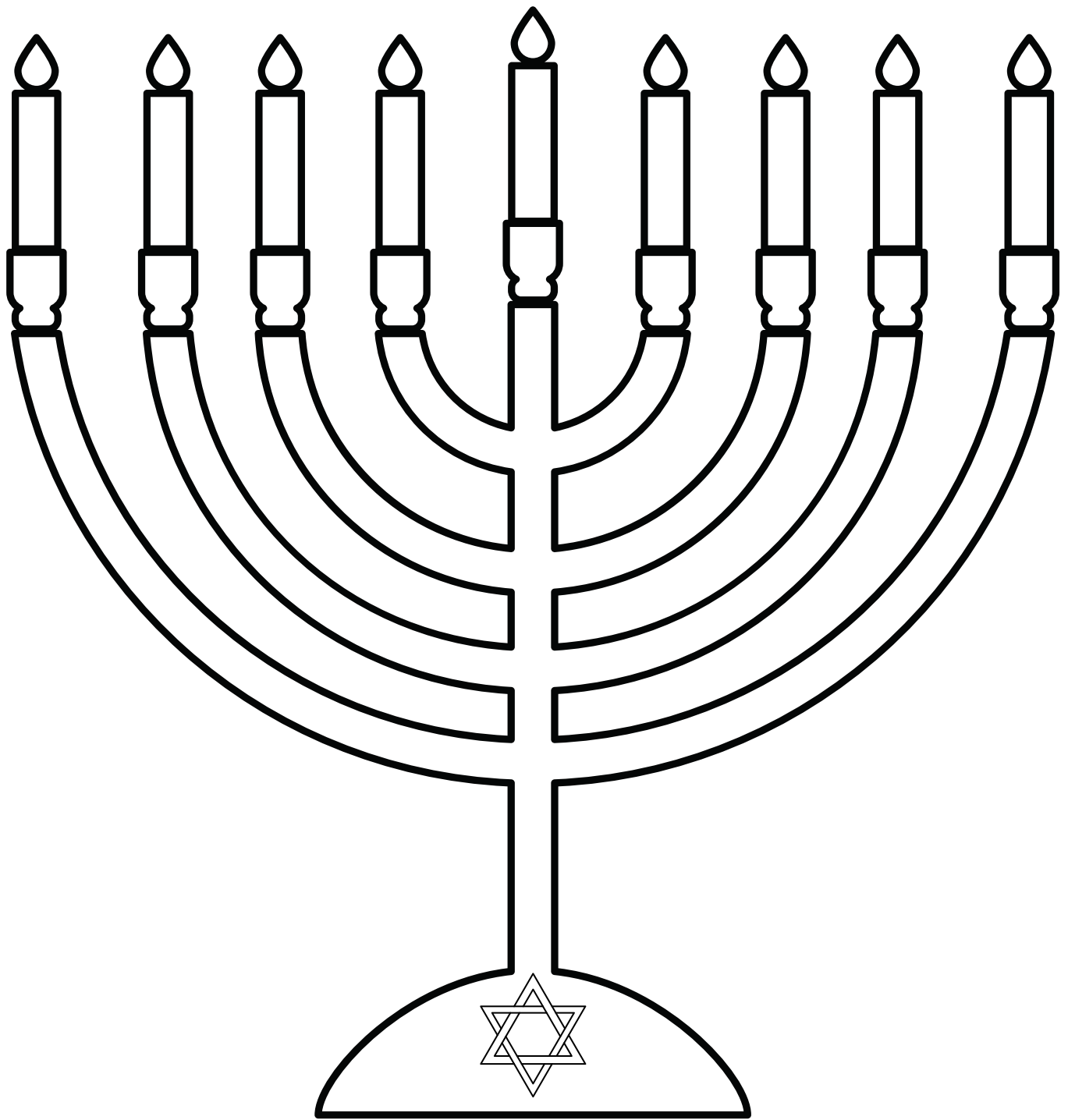


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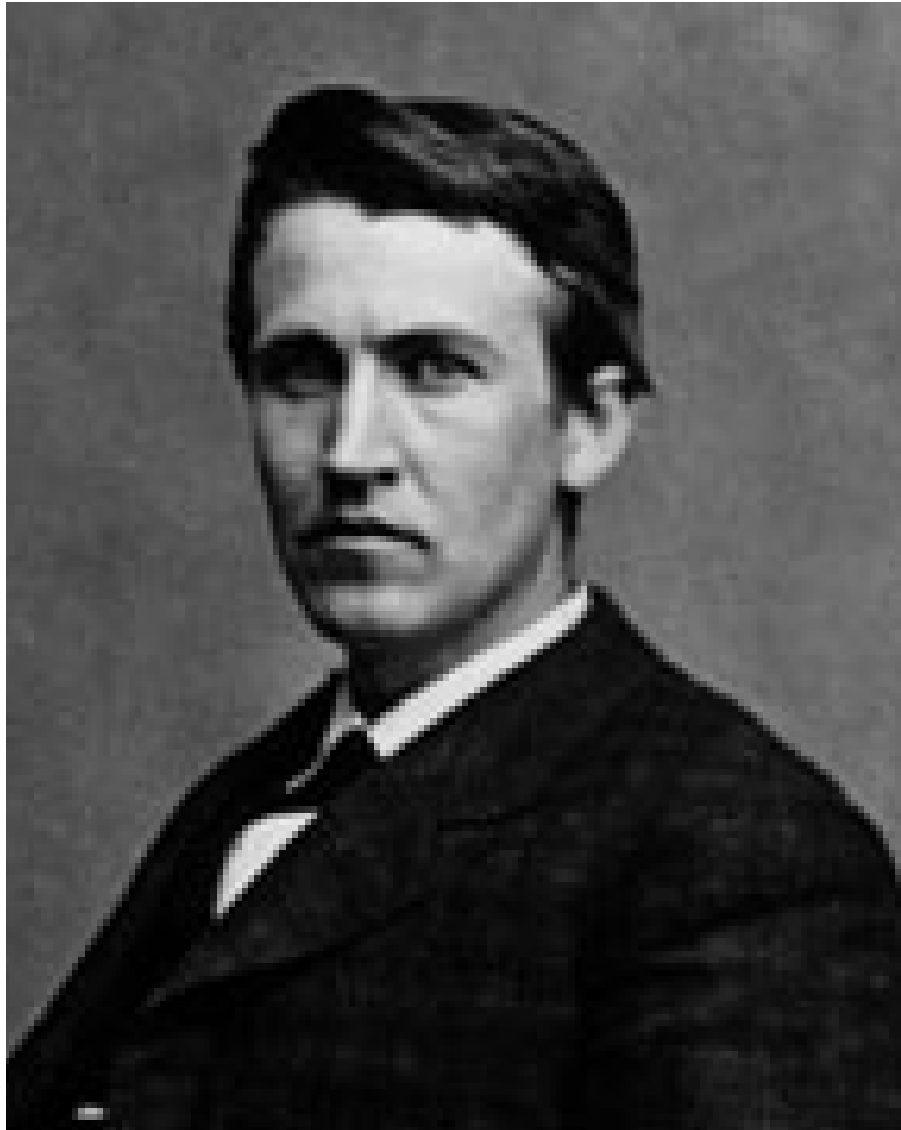
Kwanzaa Kinara



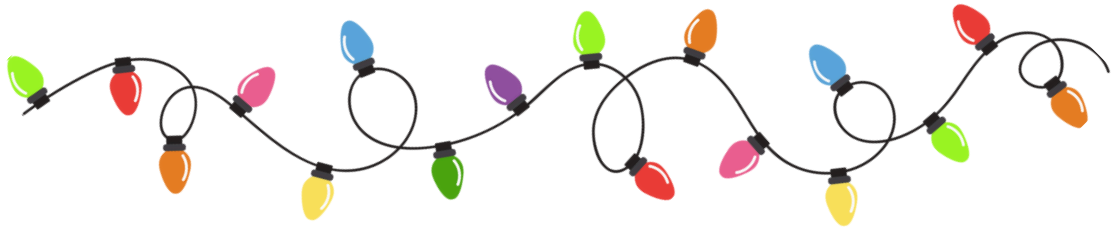
1-Red
2-Black
3-Green



Hanakkuh Menora



Thomas Edison invented the first useful light bulb in 1879, changing how people lit their homes. In 1880, he showed off electric holiday lights outside his lab to share the amazing power of electricity. His company Edison Electric Illuminating Company would eventually become General Electric.



Let's write an acrostic poem using the word LIGHTS! In an acrostic poem, each letter of the word starts a new line. Think about what "LIGHTS" means to you—like shining stars, holiday decorations, or glowing lamps. For each letter, write a word or sentence that starts with that letter and matches the theme. Have fun!

L _____

I _____

G _____

H _____

T _____

S _____

Electricity Baking Recipe

Power companies like Duke Power make sure homes have power for lights and appliances today. However, when electricity was new, power companies and electric appliance companies like General Electric also needed to show how electricity could make life easier. Families had been using wood or coal burning stoves. Around Christmas, these companies created special cookbooks filled with fun recipes for their customers. These cookbooks showed families how to cook holiday meals and treats using electric appliances. Companies like Duke Power even used a lightning bolt shaped man character that appeared in each of their recipe books called Reddy Kilowatt. These recipe books were a way to celebrate both the holidays and the wonders of modern electricity.

Pinwheel Cookies

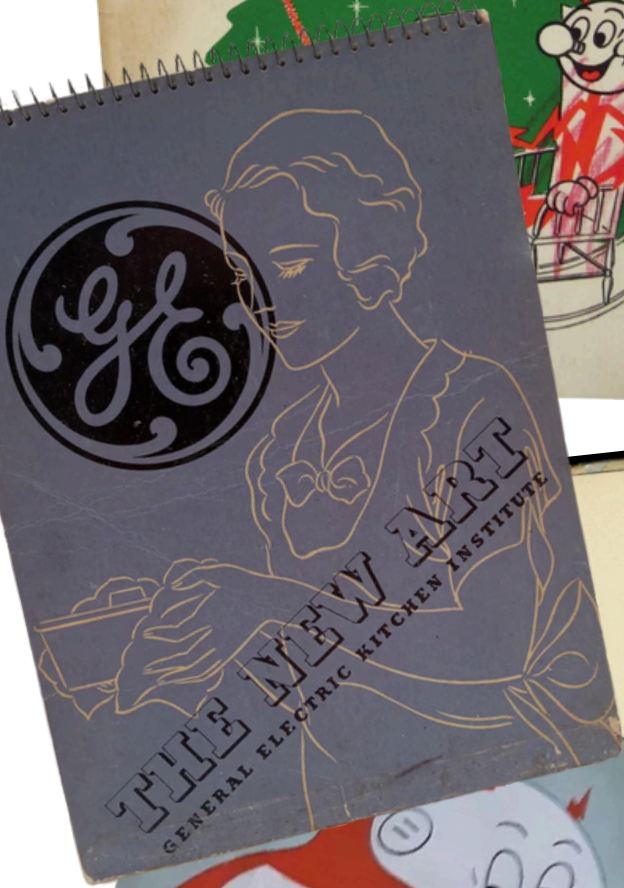
Recipe from 1939 Wisconsin Electric Co. "Christmas Cookies"

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1 1/2 cups bread flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (1-ounce) square unsweetened chocolate, melted

Instructions

1. Cream the butter, then add the sugar, mixing it well. Beat in the egg yolk.
2. Sift the dry ingredients and add them alternately with the milk to the creamed mixture. Add the vanilla and blend well.
3. Divide the dough into two equal parts. Add the melted chocolate to one of the portions blending it well.
4. Roll out both portions thin placing one on top of the other. Roll like a jelly roll and place in the refrigerator overnight to chill. (I found it easier to make two rolls instead of one larger one).
5. Slice the rolls thin and place them onto a greased cookie sheet.
6. Bake in a 375-degree Fahrenheit oven for 8 to 9 minutes.
7. Makes from 3 to 4 dozen cookies depending upon the size of the roll and thickness of the slices.



Christmas Lights Craft

Edward Johnson, a friend and business partner of Thomas Edison, was the first person to put electric lights on a Christmas tree in 1882. He decorated his tree with 80 hand-wired colorful bulbs. He then put the tree on an electric motor powered spinning platform. People were amazed because, at the time, trees were lit with candles. Johnson's glowing tree inspired others and marked the beginning of the electric Christmas tree light tradition.

DIY String Lights

Use materials provided to make your own string of lights with your adult.

Materials

- 9 Volt Battery
- Connector
- Aluminum Foil strips
- 9 Volt Battery
- LED light bulbs

Directions

1. Stretch bulb wires out.
2. Roll foil strips in to "wires" and pinch ends on to bulb wires making a light string.
3. Snap red and black connector to 9 volt battery.
4. Finally, use alligator clips on connector to clip on to your light string.
5. Watch your LED Christmas lights string light up!



...and safe by the use
...and the effect is far prettier
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