



DIY Christmas Wreath

activity sheet

It's not about how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.
Mother Theresa

Homemade Christmas wreaths are a great way to give your guests a warm welcome during the festive season - and it can become a great tradition for the family to make each year. Join Botanical Stylist Aimie from Willow and Bear as she creates a beautiful and unique Christmas wreath using lush, native foliage.

For this activity you will need:

- **1 x rattan hoop** - these can be purchased from eBay, Kmart, Spotlight and most craft shops for approx. \$45.00.
- **Foliage** - a selection of eucalyptus, spruce, holly, olive, pinecones, dried natives, fruit trees, twigs, gumnuts and succulents (all available from florists, markets or *you can simply forage in your local neighbourhood!*) If you are using spruce, bear in mind it can drop its needles. If you want the wreath to be fresh for Christmas Day, avoid making it more than 2 weeks before.
- Choose either **floral wire, floral tape, cable ties, twine** or **twist ties** (similar to what you would use on a loaf of bread although they will not work with heavy foliage such as gumnuts).
- **Pruning shears or scissors** - whichever you prefer to use.
- **Fishing line** and **3M hooks** to hang your wreath.

A note about drying the eucalyptus:

- This takes 2-4 weeks to fully dry.
- For quick turnaround, you can dress the wreath with fresh eucalyptus, and it will simply dry naturally on your wreath, should you want to dry it first though simply hang it upside down for 3 days.

How to assemble your wreath:

Step 1:

Take a piece of foliage, place on your hoop.

Then, use your cable ties to secure your foliage, one piece at a time. Cut off the excess cable tie as you go.

A few things to note:

- It doesn't matter which foliage you use first, however when you place them on the hoop do so on the diagonal to one another - this will help create texture and depth to your design.
- To create an impact, you can repeat the same foliage.
- If you want a fuller design, keep building up the same area of the hoop and using longer stems or branches. This will create a lush style wreath.



Step 2:

Repeat the above process for each stem of foliage.

Use the stem of the last piece of foliage you added and follow that line as you work your way around the hoop, layering as you go.



Step 3:

When you have added all your foliage, grab the fishing line and cut to your desired length. Secure it to the top of the hoop and hang from your hooks. You're done!

Note: the weight of your wreath will determine how many hooks you will need!



To see more beautiful work from Aimie, check out [Willow and Bear](#).