



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
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# Press Release

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**HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS**  
***MUSEUM MAKE AND TAKE ACTIVITY***  
**AT ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

Visit the Hands-On Gallery at the Alabama Department of Archives and History during the months of November and December to make holiday ornaments, including paper cornucopias and paper Cathay lanterns.

Celebrate the seasons of harvest and winter holidays by joining in the Victorian tradition of making paper ornaments. Arts and crafts and decorated ornaments became very popular during the Victorian culture of the late 19th century.

Children can make paper cornucopias, in the Hands-On Gallery, and take them home and fill them with harvest items, such as leaves, berries, and acorns. Paper cornucopias can also be used as table decorations or Christmas ornaments. Cornucopias historically have been filled with fruits, vegetables, and even small presents.

Children also can make paper Cathay lanterns. Cathay is an Old-World word that refers to the country of China. Victorians were fascinated with foreign countries that seemed far away and exotic. Victorians made paper Cathay lanterns to use as tree decorations.

During the month of December, visitors to the Archives can also make paper Dreidels and Kwanza Unity Garlands. Children can take the ornaments or garlands home or add them to the Holiday Tree in the Hands-On Gallery.

*Museum Make and Take* activities take place in the Hands-On Gallery and are available during museum hours. These activities are designed for children and the “young-at-heart.”

The Archives is open Monday – Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Archives museum galleries and participation in this activity are FREE to the public.

For more information visit the ADAH website [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov) or call (334) 353-4702.###

