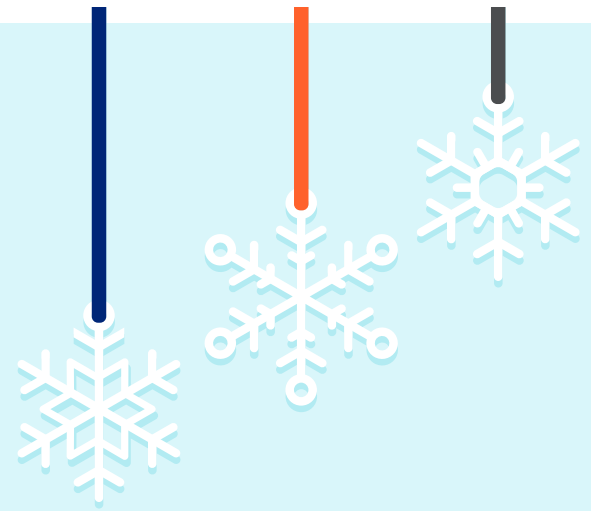


# Do-it-yourself gifts

Though customs and traditions may vary, people around the world give one another gifts to celebrate special occasions and show appreciation and gratitude. Whatever the reason, giving gifts can be a lot of fun – and so can making them.



Here are five handmade gift ideas.



**Delicious dinners or desserts** – Whether it's your own signature dish or a traditional treat, you can always find a recipe online to prepare and share. Be sure to ask about and respect any dietary restrictions or guidelines.



**Stitch something special** – If you can sew, knit or embroider, there's an endless array of unique crafts you can create, such as blankets, tablecloths, sweaters, hats, scarves, mittens, stuffed toys and more.



**Make a photo collage** – Take the time to collect and arrange cherished images in a digital or print photo album or collage. You could feature memories of times together or make up a theme you know the person will enjoy.



**Create a playlist** – Handpick a group of songs to commemorate the occasion, remember good times or set an uplifting mood to create a playlist on a platform they can easily access. Or, if you have musical talent, play something meaningful just for them.



**Save their spot** – A decorative, slender bookmark gives readers an easy way to save their place without folding the page. You can make them from just about anything, too – material scraps, yarn, paper, pressed dried flowers, whittled wood – it all depends on what you have on hand and your imagination.

## Be creative and crafty

Consider all the ways you can create something special for someone else. From a handwritten thank-you note to a colorful drawing, painted rock or artfully folded paper, many agree: It's the thought that counts and deserves to be cherished.

### Fun activity:

Follow these simple instructions to make a paper flower to brighten someone's day:<sup>1</sup>

1. Cut your paper into a square.
2. Fold the square in half, diagonally, to make a triangle.
3. Fold the triangle in half.
4. Open the fold and make sure the folded line is facing upward.
5. Fold the points on the base of the triangle upward.
6. Turn your flower over.
7. Fold back the sides of the flower.
8. Turn your flower over – voila!



1. Toucan Box, [Easy Origami Flower Craft For Kids](#), Accessed September 23, 2024.

AARP, [10 DIY Holiday Gifts for Friends, Family](#), December 8, 2020.

PBS Kids for Parents, [DIY Gift Ideas for the Holiday Season](#), November 15, 2023.

Ripple Kindness Project, [11 Easy DIY Gifts to Help Kids Learn the Meaning of Giving](#), Accessed September 20, 2024.