

12 Tribes of Israel Tree

Supplies:

- 12 dark green pipe cleaners
- 24 light green pipe cleaners
- 28 brown pipe cleaners
- 12 different colored large gems
- Hot glue gun

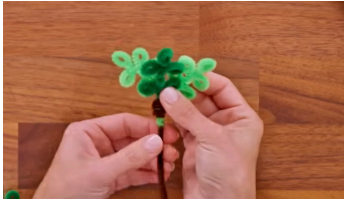


Steps:

	<p>Step 1: To make the first leaf, fold a light green pipe cleaner in half, create a small loop at the folded end, and twist the loop three times to anchor it.</p>
	<p>Step 2: Using the same looping and twisting method, continue forming loops, alternating which stem makes the loop until the pipe cleaner has about five loops in total.</p>
	<p>Step 3: Repeat for all of the remaining light green pipe cleaners.</p>
	<p>Step 4: Using the same method, make leaves out of all the dark green pipe cleaners. When completed, there should be twenty-four light green leaves and twelve dark green leaves.</p>
	<p>Step 5: Begin gathering leaves to make the first branch. Each branch should have one dark green leaf and two light green leaves. Bundle together the three leaves with the dark green leaf on top.</p>

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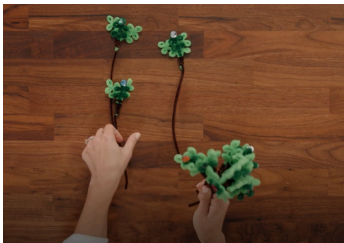
Step 6: Wrap one brown pipe cleaner around the stems of all three leaves. Wrap until the leaves feel very secure, about four times.



Step 7: Repeat this method to create twelve branches. Lay all twelve branches out with the dark green leaves on top.



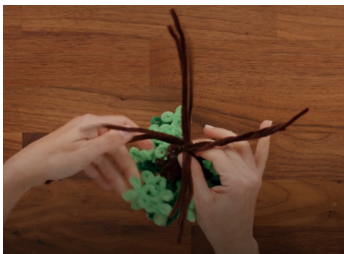
Step 8: Decorate the branched by carefully placing a dot of hot glue on the topmost loop of the dark leaves. Press a gem onto the glue for each branch.



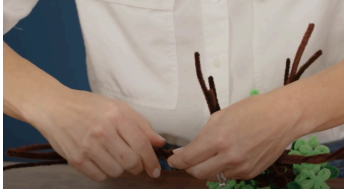
Step 9: Bundle the branches together like a flower bouquet.



Step 10: Just below the green branches, twist the brown stems together a couple of times to hold everything in place.



Step 11: Hold the bouquet upside down. Separate the brown stems into four groups of three to resemble a plus sign. Twist each group of three stems about three or four times to bind them together into a leg.



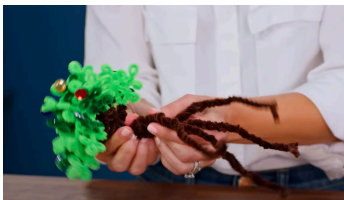
Step 12: Gather four new brown pipe cleaners and twist them tightly together around one leg of the tree.



Step 13: Continue twisting tightly all the way outward to the end of the pipe cleaners.



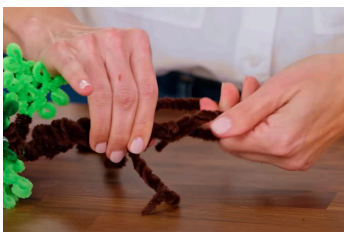
Step 14: Repeat for the remaining three legs of the tree.



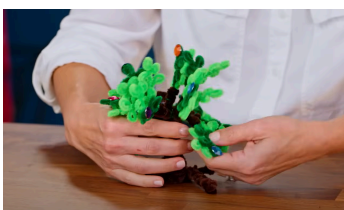
Step 15: Twist all four of the long legs together, stopping about halfway down.



Step 16: Separate the four legs into a shape like a plus sign.



Step 17: Fold the end of each leg in half. Twist each folded leg tightly, forming four thick "feet" or "roots" to support the tree.



Step 18: Arrange the tree by spreading apart the dark leaves from the light leaves and making sure the gems are visible.

Is Israel a person or a country? Modern Israel is a small country in the Middle East, but the land of Israel has existed for thousands of years. During the times of the Bible, Israel was also the name of a man who had many sons, whose descendants became known as the twelve tribes of Israel. The twelve tribes of Israel are very important. They help us understand world history, and also how the Bible helped create our American traditions and values, like hope, resilience, and freedom.

Fun Facts:

- The twelve tribes of Israel began thousands of years ago with a faithful man named Abraham. God promised Abraham that the Holy Land of Israel would be given to him and that he would be the father of many nations. God also said that Abraham's descendants, or sons, would live in the Promised Land and that all the families of the Earth would be blessed through Abraham. This promise is called the Abrahamic Covenant. Abraham and his descendants were God's chosen people to be a blessing to humanity.
- Abraham eventually had a son named Isaac, who eventually had a son named Jacob, and Jacob later became known as Israel. Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons, who had families of their own, which grew into twelve tribes. These tribes, the sons and families of Israel, eventually spread out throughout the land, and the land became known as Israel.
- These twelve tribes are still remembered today as part of our history and faith. Each tribe is known for having a special characteristic and skill, like bravery, wisdom, law and order, and more. The sons, or tribes, became like branches of a tree, sprawling out everywhere. Each tribe had a particular area where they lived, except for Levi's tribe. They did not own land but became priests who traveled and taught people about God. Some Jews today can still trace their own family trees all the way back to Levi's tribe.
- Some historians say that when the father of our nation, George Washington, took his oath to serve as the first President of the United States, he opened the Bible and put his hand on Genesis 49-50. This is the passage when Jacob blesses his twelve sons and says, "Listen to your father, Israel." At that time, the United States only had thirteen states, and some think that George Washington wanted to make sure America was blessed, just like the twelve tribes were blessed by God thousands of years ago in the land of Israel.