

CHRISTMAS TREE



- How to make the 3D Christmas tree:
1. Print them out
 2. Cut slits in the tree shapes for joining them together
 3. Slide the two pieces together along the slits, so that the middles match.
 4. Use a piece of clear tape to hold them together
 5. Fold the tree open so that it stands on its own
 6. You can colour the blank sides if you wish

The Story

Read the story out loud, so the children can act out as they hear it. If your house is decorated for Christmas, it will help to set the ambience for the story.

Original Nutcracker Suite written in 1816, by Hoffmann

It's a cozy Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum's house. Their house is decorated with Christmas ornaments, wreaths, stockings, mistletoe and in the center of it all, a majestic Christmas tree. As the Stahlbaum's prepare for their annual Christmas party, their children, Fritz and Clara, wait anxiously for their family and friends to arrive. The strange Uncle Drosselmeyer arrives and brings gifts for the children. He is Clara's godfather and a toymaker.

Fritz is given a beautiful drum, but Clara is given the best gift of all, the Nutcracker. Fritz grows jealous, snatches the Nutcracker from Clara and plays a game of toss with the other boys. It isn't long until the Nutcracker breaks. Clara is upset.

As Clara's family retires to bed, she checks on her Nutcracker one last time and ends up falling asleep under the Christmas tree with the Nutcracker in her arms.

At the stroke of midnight Clara wakes up to a surprising scene. The room is full of mice lead by the Mouse King and the Nutcracker magically grows to life size. Suddenly, the Nutcracker is fighting the Mouse King with swords. After the Nutcracker defeats the Mouse King, he transforms into a human prince.

Clara travels with the prince through a snowy forest where the snowflakes turn into ballerinas and they end up in a place called the Land of the Sweets where they meet many friends, including the Sugar Plum Fairy. The friends entertain Clara and the prince with sweets from around the world and they all spend many hours dancing. When it's time to go home, she tells the Nutcracker she wishes the adventure would never end and he tells her it won't for those who have an eye to see it.

Clara wakes up the next morning under the Christmas tree with her Nutcracker still in her arms.