

# Make a Victorian pomander!

## Fun fact!

Pomanders were even worn by royalty! Queen Elizabeth I was given 'a cheyne of pomaunder with a verrey small ragged perle' for Christmas in 1577 – it doesn't sound like she was very impressed!

Many of the Christmas traditions we enjoy today come from the Victorians. This even includes festive smells! The Victorians made pomanders, which are oranges decorated with sweet-smelling cloves. They were given as presents and hung from Christmas trees, along with ribbons and candles.

However, pomanders have a much smellier past! They originally date back to the medieval period, when people wore pomanders made of silver, gold or wood. They contained herbs and spices to ward off illness, protect against witches, make the wearer smell good and mask the smelly streets!

Have a go at making your own Victorian Christmas pomander by following our instructions below.

## You will need:

- Oranges
- Cloves
- A sharp tool (we used a knitting needle, but you could use a pen or cocktail stick)
- Ribbon
- Scissors

If you don't want to hang it, you can make a pomander without ribbon – simply skip to decorating with cloves!



- Cut a long piece of ribbon for each orange.



- Fold the ribbon in half. Put the middle part on the centre of the orange.



- Flip the orange over and twist the ribbon into a cross – tie it tightly!



- Flip the orange back over. Tie a knot and then make a pretty bow.



- Using your sharp tool, carefully make small holes on the orange where you want the cloves to go. Push a clove halfway into each hole, making sure the outer head of the clove is visible.



- Your pomanders are complete and ready for display!