



Gilded Age Christmas Crafts at The Mark Twain House & Museum

Paper Snowflakes

Much of the family's Christmas fun took place in the library. This is where they'd pop popcorn for garlands (and snacking!), make presents, and tell each other stories. It was also one of the most heavily-decorated rooms in the house. Susy, Clara, and Jean made the paper snowflakes that were set amongst the greenery that was placed all along the bookshelves.

Supplies

- **Paper** If you have a museum craft box, there are three pieces of 8.5x11" white paper for making snowflakes.
- **Scissors**

Instructions

1. **Start by making a perfect square from a rectangular piece of paper.** To cut a perfect square from a standard 8-by-11-inch sheet of paper, fold paper into a right-angled triangle and then cut off the strip of excess. ***To make tiny snowflakes:*** Cut each piece of paper in half vertically and then horizontally to produce four rectangles, then follow the directions to create a square from each piece.
2. **Fold paper in half diagonally to make a triangle**, then in half again so that the pointed corners meet. One more fold in half and you're ready to go!
3. **Cut your folded paper with variations of cutouts.** Be careful with your cuts—if you remove too much from the spine of your paper triangle, the place where all of the folds nest together, your snowflake may fall into pieces when you open it up!
4. **Unfold your snowflake gently.** Admire it! It's as unique as you!