



His Christmas Miracle Advent Calendar

Dear Reader,

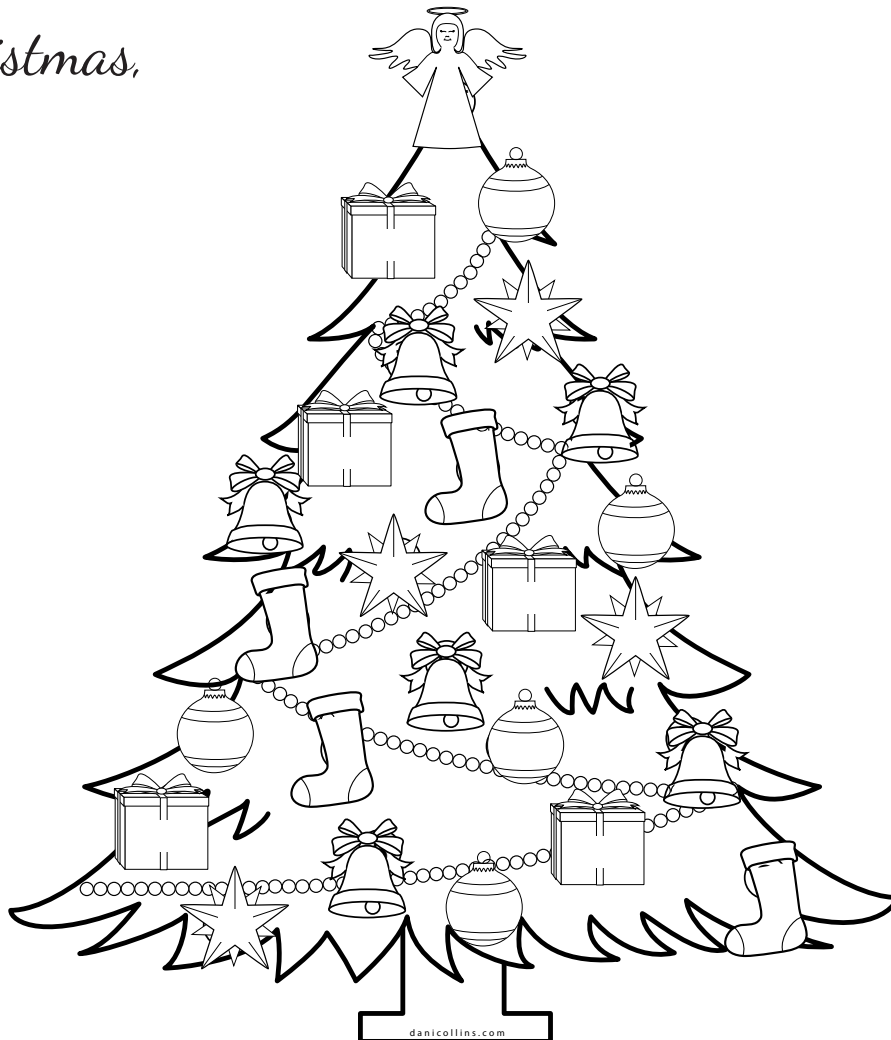
I was inspired to create this craft for you while writing "His Christmas Miracle." In it, Nicki takes a temporary position with Quincy Ryan, a man who only learns he has a four-year-old son, Atlas, when he is given custody of the boy. Atlas has only been with Quincy a few weeks when Quincy moves with his father to his father's old hometown, Marietta Montana. Quincy's father urges Quincy to give the boy a 'proper' Christmas. It's been a long time since Quincy has celebrated the season and he's completely out of his depth as a dad.

Nicki lost her mom when she was young and feels a lot of empathy for young Atlas. She quickly realizes that Quincy needs to spend quality time with his son in order to form a bond. At first Quincy is skeptical of her Advent calendar, but pretty soon he is embracing the activities and discovering not just the joy of the season, but the joy of fatherhood.

His Christmas Miracle is book six in my Love In Montana series (but all of them can be read as stand-alones.) You can read more about this series and all of my books on my website at danicollins.com. Join my newsletter while you're there and you will receive a link to download Cruel Summer, a short story romance written exclusively for my reader group.

I would love to see photos of your completed project. Please post them on my Facebook Page (DaniCollinsAuthor), find me on Twitter, Instagram or Pinterest, or send your photo direct to me at dani@danicollins.com.

*Merry Christmas,
Dani*





His Christmas Miracle Advent Calendar

YOU WILL NEED:

- A printer and a minimum of 16 sheets of white paper. Higher quality, heavier paper might give you a better result. Midrange printer paper should work fine since this is a coloring craft.
- Scotch tape or a glue stick
- Something to color your tree and baubles. You could use Crayons OR Pencil Crayons OR felt-tip markers OR watercolor paint OR a combination of any of these. Use whatever works best for you and your fellow artists.
- **RECOMMENDED:** one piece of cardboard approximately 22" x 28" or one poster board in a color of your choice. The tree could also be taped to a window or possibly pinned to a wall, but consider the weight and possible damage to paint from pins or tape when deciding where and how to hang it.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **OPEN AND PRINT** His Christmas Miracle Advent Calendar.pdf
- **PRINT** or **MAKE EXTRA COPIES** of the Baubles Page
- **CHECK** that everything printed. You should have:
 - **TREE** – 6 pages
 - **BAUBLES** – 5 pages (minimum)
 - **ACTIVITIES SHEET**
 - **RECIPE CARDS**
 - **An illustration of the finished craft with a Message from Dani**
- **COLOR THE TREE AND BAUBLES.** Leave the space in the middle of the baubles blank. This is where you will write in your activities as the month goes along.
- **CUT OUT THE TREE AND BAUBLES.** If your printer has left a border on the tree sections, you can trim this off and the tree will line up more cleanly.
- **TAPE OR GLUE THE TREE TOGETHER.** For best results, work right to left, bottom to top
- **BEGIN HANGING THE BAUBLES.** As the month goes along, use one bauble for each activity, hanging them on the appropriately numbered day. You might want to reserve a star (or the angel?) for the 25th since that's at the top of the tree.
- **ENJOY THE SEASON!** Is it December 1st? You can place "Make An Advent Calendar" on the number one. Use your glue stick or the tape to attach it.



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SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

In “**His Christmas Miracle**”, Nicki has a few activities planned ahead, and she allows for some days to be spontaneous. Do what is right for you. For instance, many families open presents on Christmas Eve and many attend midnight mass, so you might want to arrange those baubles in advance. And, of course, you might have to wait to “make a snowman” until the weather cooperates.

Below are some of the activities from the book along with some of my own suggestions. Feel free to add your own special occasions, events and traditions.

- Make an Advent Calendar
- Bake (see recipes attached)
- Decorate Cookies
- Make homemade snowflakes and paper chains
- Write a letter to Santa
- Make a pinecone bird feeder (instructions attached)
- Get a tree!
- Decorate the tree
- Have a picnic by Christmas tree light
- Hang outdoor lights
- Visit the library for Christmas books
- Go ice skating
- Make a homemade snow globe (instructions attached)
- Drive around to see outdoor light displays
- Bring cookies to your neighbors and/or teacher and or your local fire or police station
- Take a donation to the food bank
- Take a donation to your local animal shelter
- Play board games
- Make a gingerbread house
- Play in the snow
- Go bowling
- Go caroling
- Go to church
- Take time to remember someone you love who is absent
- Send Christmas messages to people you miss
- Visit Santa
- Finish your Christmas shopping
- Make homemade wrapping paper
- Wrap presents
- Donate a toy to a child in need
- Scatter reindeer food (mix cake sprinkles with birdseed)
- Send a card or care package to a soldier
- Watch a Christmas movie
- Watch the Santa parade
- Go to midnight mass
- Arrange a scavenger hunt
- Make Nuts and Bolts (recipe attached)
- Visit a local Christmas event (nativity play, pageant or sleigh ride)
- Phone or video chat with someone you love
- Donate coats or blankets to the homeless



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Shortbread:

1 cup rice flour ~ ½ cup berry sugar (not icing sugar), 1 ½ cups regular flour ~ ½ lb. butter
Mix flours. Add sugar. Cut butter into mixture. Knead with your hands. Knead until it sticks together. Dust rolling surface with flour. Roll out to 3/8-inch thick. Use round cookie cutter so cookies will bake evenly. Bake at 350 for 12-15 minutes. Watch carefully and remove from oven when edges begin to turn brown. Cool briefly on pan, then transfer to rack. Refrigerate in an airtight container

Best Ever Sugar Cookies

Cream Together:

2 cups butter & 2 cups white sugar

Add:

6 eggs, 3 tsp vanilla

Sift together:

7 cups white flour, 2 tsp baking soda, 4 tsp cream of tartar.

Fold wet ingredients into dry. Chill wrapped dough 3-4 hours. Roll out and cut into shapes. Bake on greased cookie sheet (or use parchment paper) for 8-10 minutes at 350 F.

Homemade Snowglobe

You will need:

• A clean Mason jar • Figurine(s) for inside (eg. Small plastic Xmas tree) • Epoxy or waterproof glue • Glitter • Water • Glycerin

STEPS:

• Glue figurine(s) to inside of Mason jar lid. Allow to dry • Fill jar with water leaving about ½ to ¾ inch space to rim. • Add a few drops of glycerin and approx. 1 tbsp of glitter. • Glue lid to ring. Allow to dry. • Securely glue the lid onto the jar. Allow to dry. • Turn over and shake.

Nuts & Bolts

Mix together in large roasting pan:

4 cups Shreddies, 4 cups Cheerios, 4 cups Rice Chex, 3 cups pretzel rods, 1 200 g box of Cheese Bits crackers (or similar), 1½ cups mixed nuts

On stovetop or in microwave, melt together:

½ cup butter, 2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce, 1 tsp granulated garlic or garlic powder (not garlic salt), 1 tsp onion powder, 1 tsp garlic salt, 1 tsp paprika, Pour butter mixture over cereal mixture. Stir to coat. **Bake for 1 hour, stirring every 10-15 minutes**

Gingersnaps:

Cream together:

1 ½ cups white sugar & 1 cup butter or marg

Add:

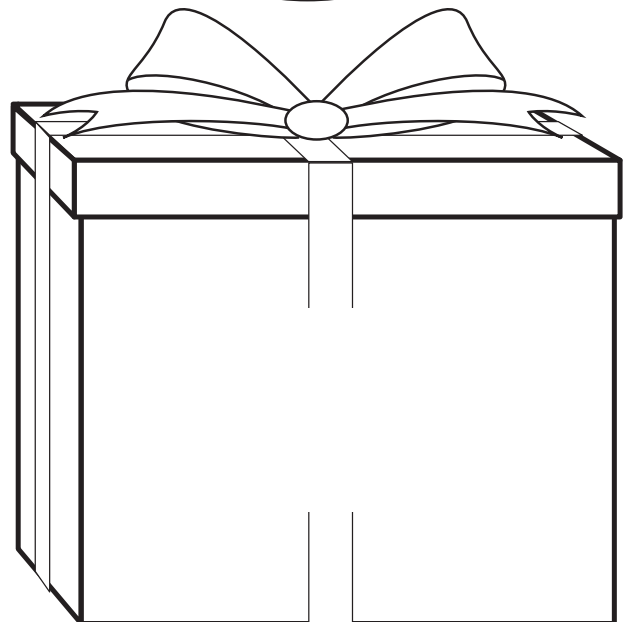
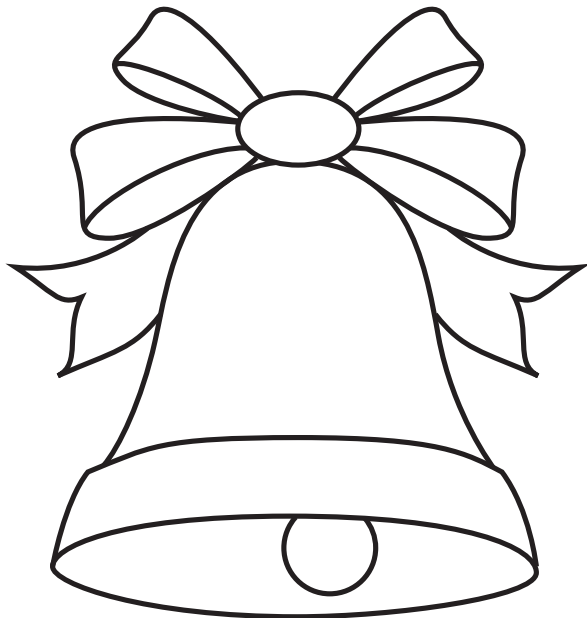
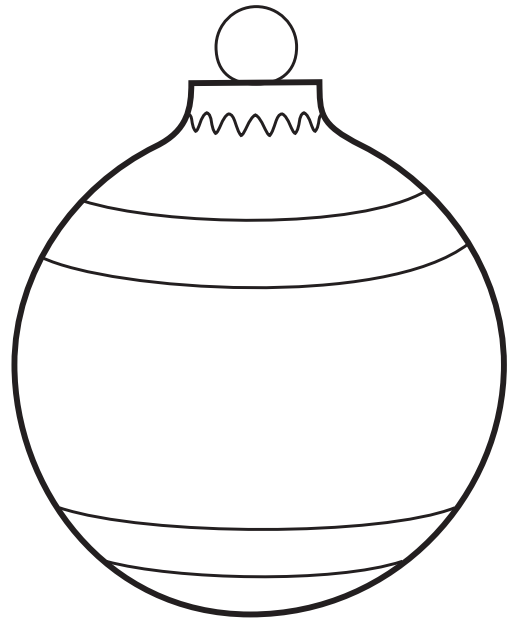
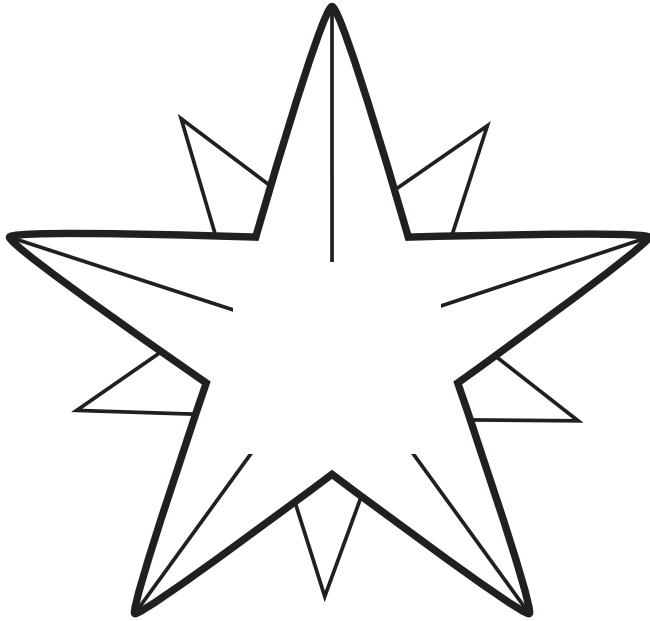
2 eggs ~ 1 cup molasses

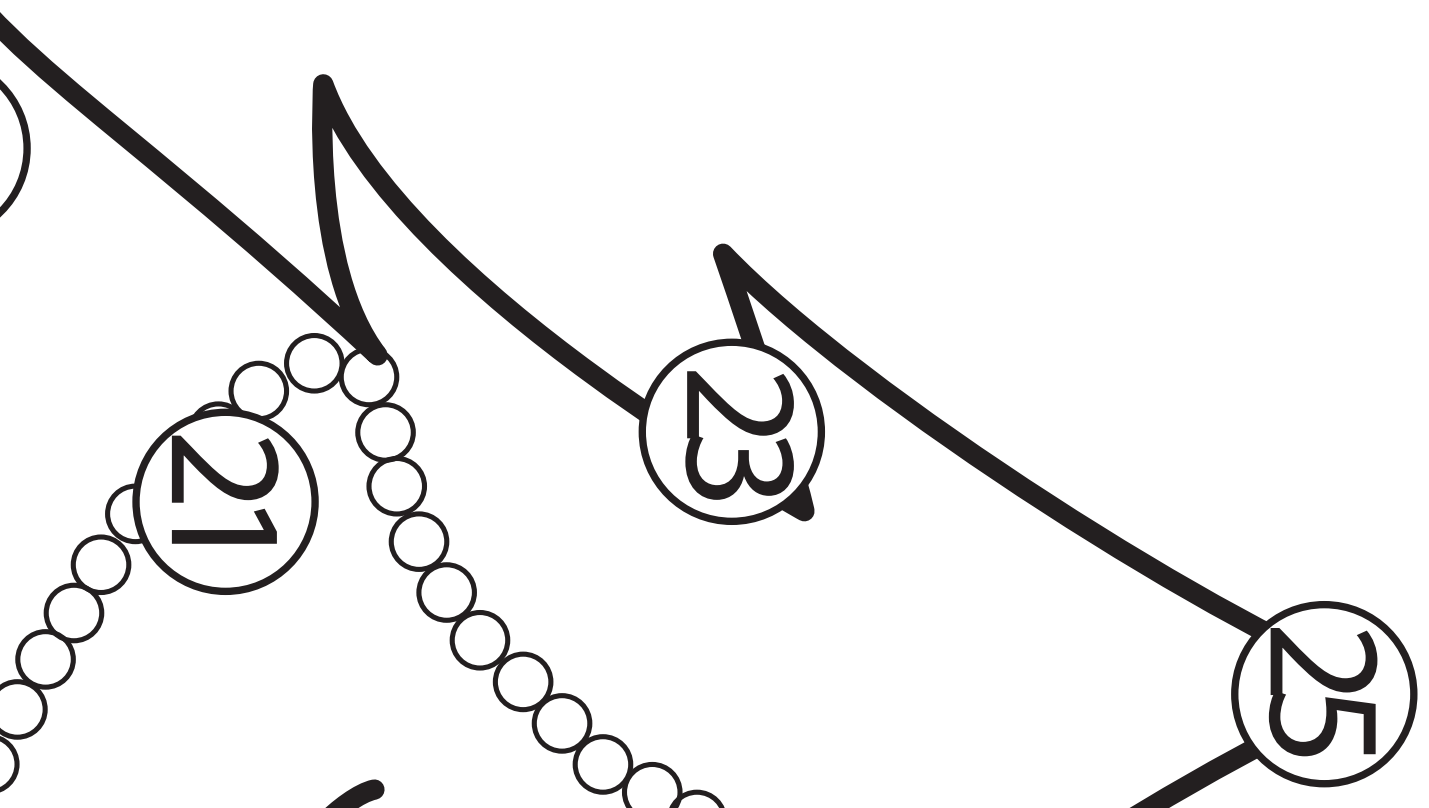
Sift together in a separate bowl:

1 Tbsp baking soda ~ 2 tsp baking powder, 1 Tbsp ground ginger ~ 4 cups flour, 1 tsp ea: nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, all spice
Stir dry ingredients into wet (can use electric mixer). Roll dough into balls 1 inch in diameter
Dip top into white sugar
Place on greased cookie sheet – Do Not Press
Bake at 350F for approx 15 mins
Tops crack when done. ~ Cool on wire rack

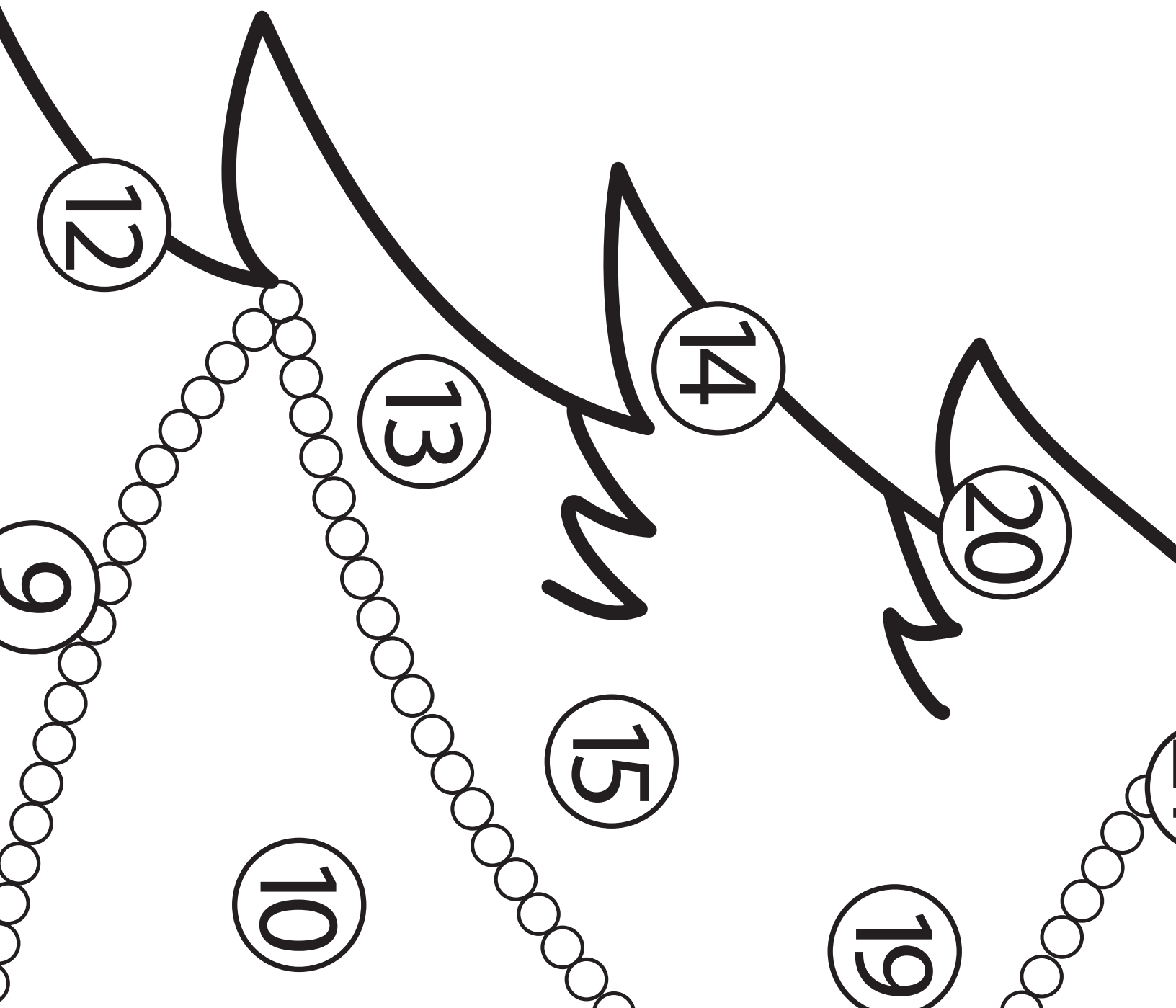
Pinecone Birdfeeder

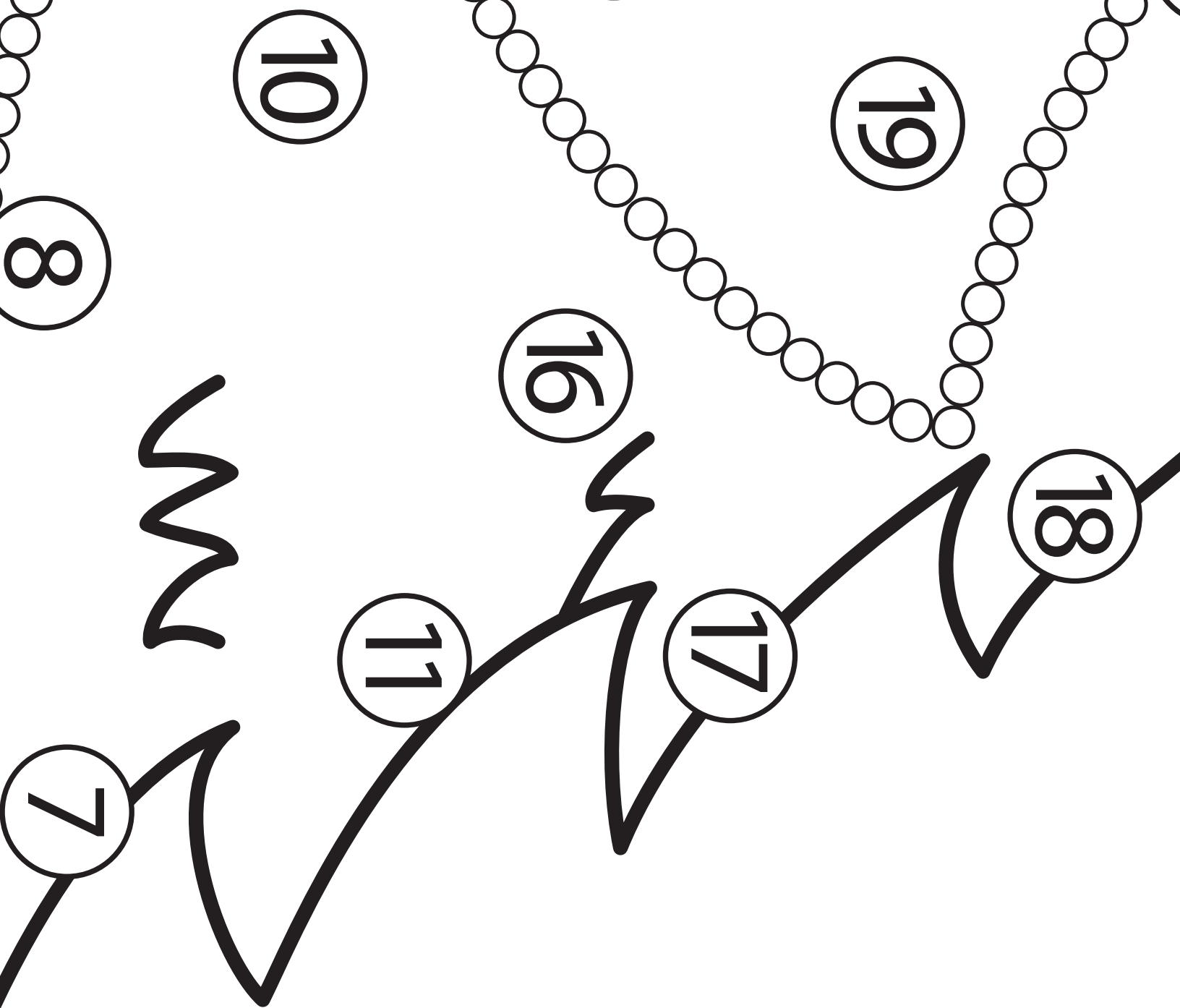
- Tie a string or ribbon around it for hanging.
- Mix ½ cup peanut butter with ½ cup oats.
- Use a popsicle stick (or carefully use small fingers) to spread the mixture on the petals of the pinecone. • Pour birdseed into a pie tin. Roll coated pinecone to coat it in birdseed. • Hang your pinecone feeder where you can watch the birds come and go.

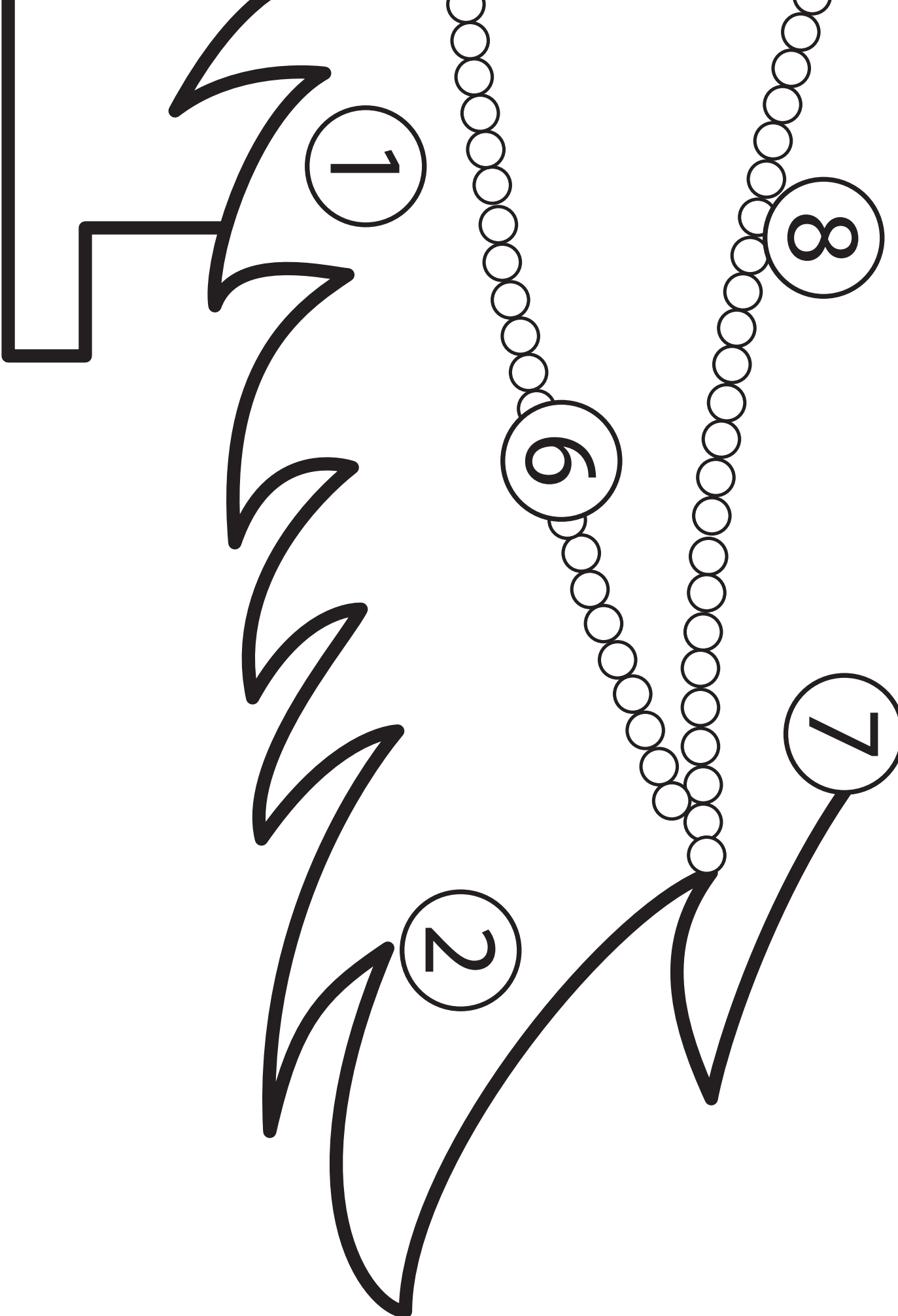


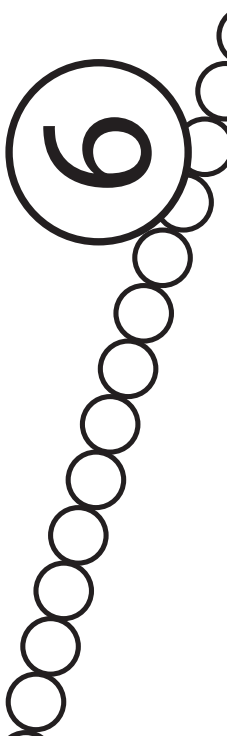












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