ACTIVITY

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# Make a Christmas Card Loop

## What will you do?

Challenge your friends and family to cut a hole in a Christmas card that's big enough for them to fit through, without tearing the edges. Afterwards, you can amaze them with the solution below.

**Ensure you have permission from an adult and their supervision before starting.**

## What will you need?

- Christmas card
- Scissors



## How to do this activity

**Step 1.** Put the card on the table with the folded side closest to you.

**Step 2.** Cut into the folded side, about 1 cm from the left-hand edge, and start cutting straight towards the far side of the paper, in a nice straight line. Stop cutting about 1 cm before the opposite edge, so you don't cut all the way across the paper.

**Step 3.** Turn the paper around so the fold is away from you this time. Cut around 1 cm from the last cut, and stop about 1 cm before you get to the folded side.

**Step 4.** Alternate between cutting from the folded side, and the side opposite. Keep your cuts 1 cm apart, and always stop cutting 1 cm before you get to the far side of the paper. When you have finished, you should have a zig-zag of paper.

**Step 5.** Look along the folded side of the paper. You should have a series of loops of paper. Cut along the fold of each of the loops EXCEPT the first loop and the last loop. Leave these intact.

**Step 6.** Carefully pull the paper apart, being careful not to tear it. You should have a large loop.
Now try to fit yourself through the loop!

## More to try

- To get really creative, try using cards of different sizes. See if you can fit more than one person in the loop.

## Fun Facts

The first Christmas card was sent to King James the VI of Scotland (James 1 of England) in 1611, although at 80cm x 60cm it would probably have been pretty easy to cut a hole in it big enough to fit through!

The first known commercialised Scottish Christmas card was sent from Glasgow in 1891 by Annie Oakley, which featured her wearing tartan.

Around 900 million boxed Christmas cards (plus more than 100 million single Christmas cards) are sent every year in the UK.

The perimeter of a circle is called its circumference.

The most Christmas cards sent by one person in a year, is 62,824.