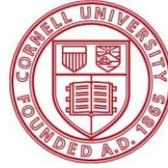


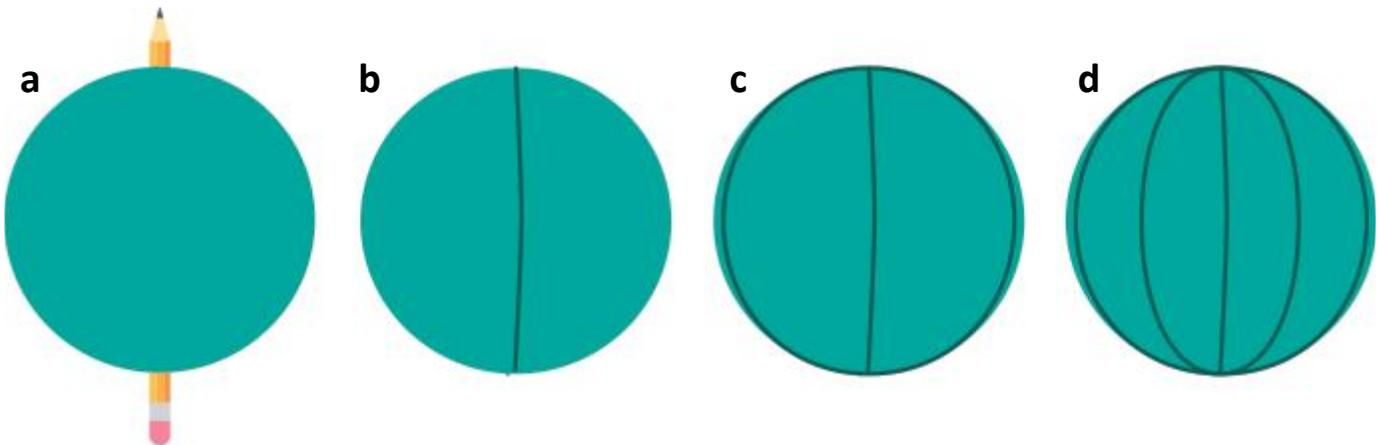
Holiday Kissing Balls

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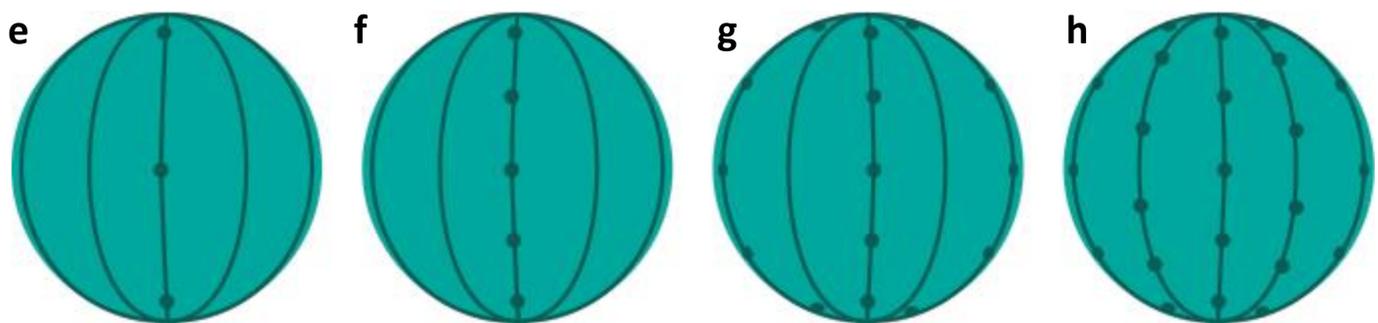


Cornell University
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Make a sweet kissing ball using plant material from your own backyard! Collect branches from one or more species. You can stick to conifers like pine, fir, and spruce, or mix in broadleaf evergreens like Rhododendron or holly. For this project, you will need a green foam ball – styrofoam or floral foam will work, but floral foam is easier to pierce. You will also need 18” wire (20 to 22 gauge), 7.5 feet of 1” - 2” wide ribbon, pruning shears, wire snips, and any desired decorative elements like small ornaments or pine cones.



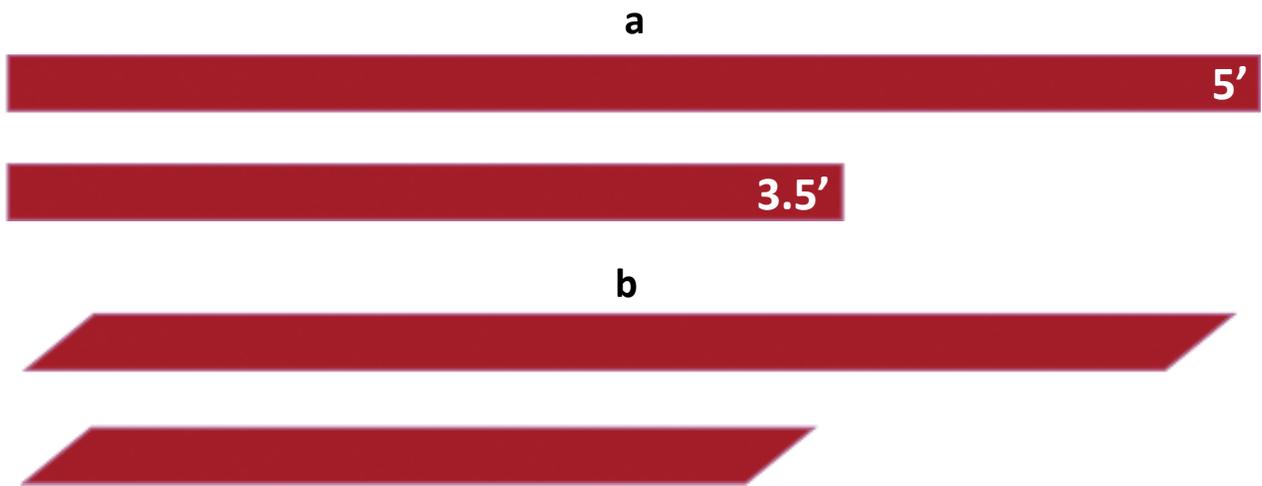
Stick a pencil through the ball at the widest point (a). Using the tip of the pencil, make a circle around the ball that divides it in half (b). Make a second circle to divide the ball into fourths (c). Make two more circles to divide the ball into eights (d).



Using the tip of the pencil, make a markings in the middle of one line segment (e). Make additional markings near the top and bottom of the line segment (f). Repeat the previous step for every other line (g). For the remaining lines: Make markings between the markings on the adjacent lines so the markings are staggered (h).

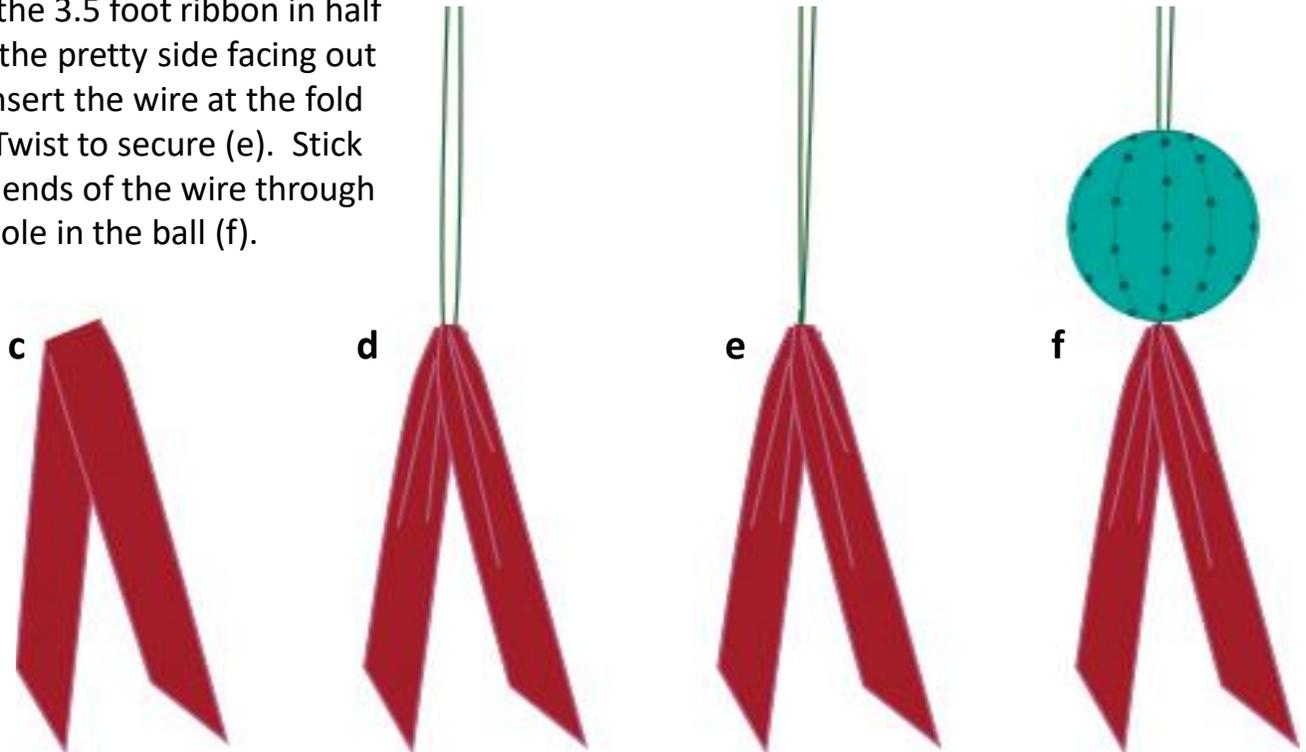


Fold the 18” length of wire in half to make a hairpin shape (i)



Cut the ribbon into 3 foot and 5.5 foot lengths (a). Cut the ends at 90 degree angles to make points (b).

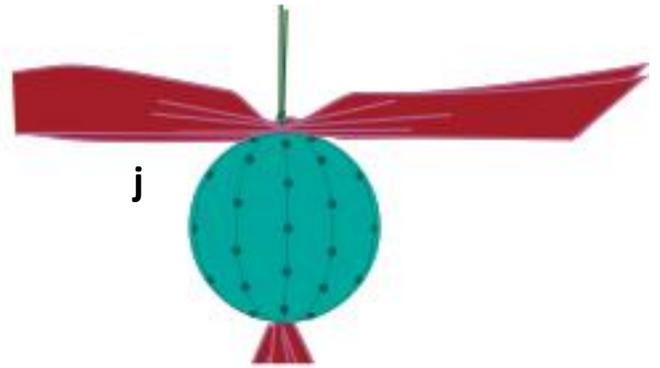
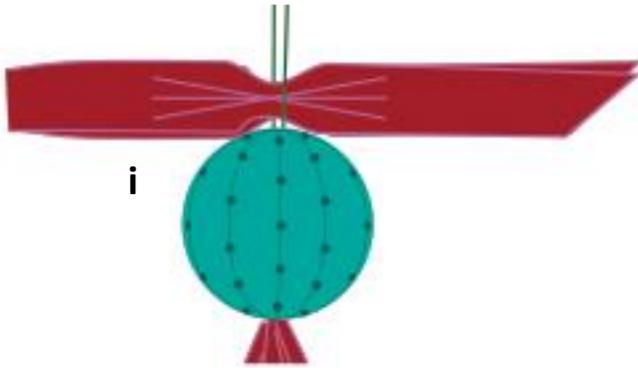
Fold the 3.5 foot ribbon in half with the pretty side facing out (c). Insert the wire at the fold (d). Twist to secure (e). Stick both ends of the wire through the hole in the ball (f).



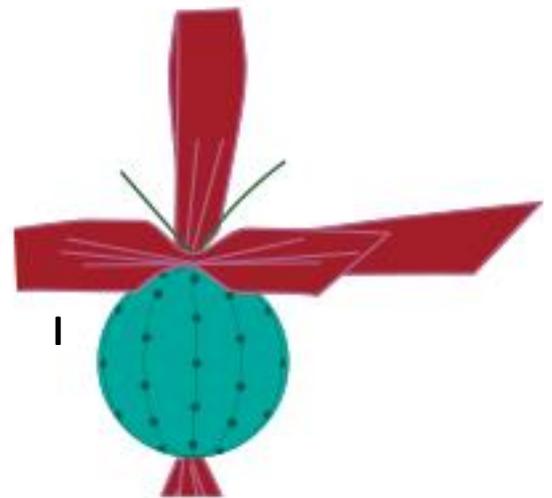
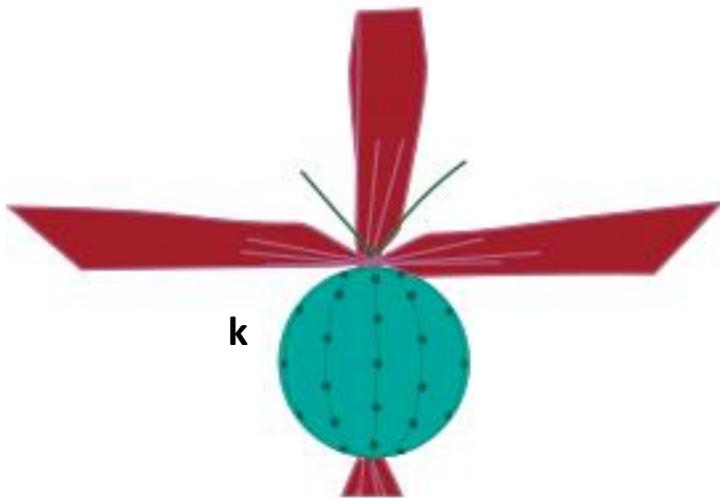
Note: If the ribbon is sheer and/or narrow, tie the tails from step f in a knot to prevent them from pulling through the ball.

Fold the 5 foot ribbon in half with the pretty side facing out (g). Pinch both layers of the ribbon between your fingers 8" from the fold (h).

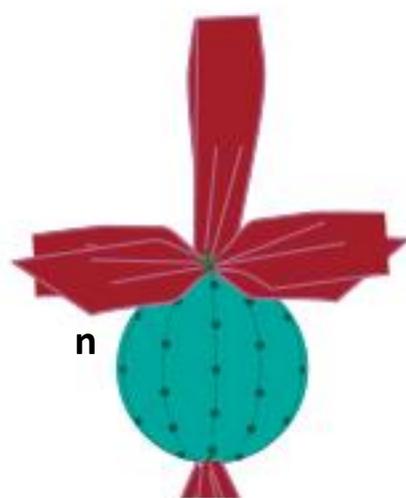
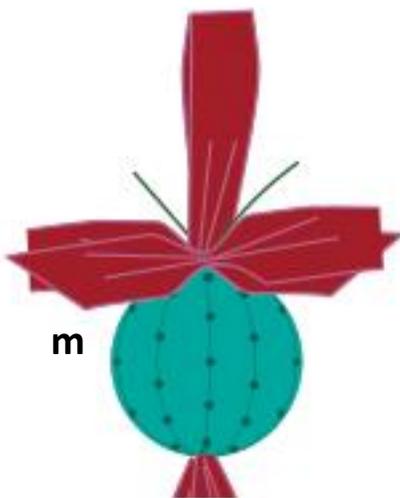




Slip the pinched portion of the ribbon between the wires (i). Twist to secure (j).



Bring the resulting loop up and pull the tails out to the sides (k). Fold one tail over towards the ball and pinch in the middle to make a 5" loop (l).



Repeat with the other tail (m). Secure the loops at the pinches with the wire. Tuck any exposed wire ends into the foam ball (n).

Cut the greenery to the desired length. 4" pieces will give a tight ball that is about 10" in diameter when finished. 6" pieces will give a looser ball that is about 14" in diameter when finished. 8" pieces will give an even looser ball that is about 18" in diameter.

Insert the greenery pieces at the marking positions. Use a strong, full variety like Norway spruce. This will give you a solid framework of greenery.

Fill between the markings with additional greenery, alternating varieties as desired. Add decorative elements like pinecones and balls to finish.

Note – to attach pinecones, wire the base to a small stick before inserting.

