

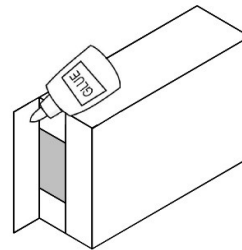
Build a Reliquary or Christmas Crib.

In the medieval period holy relics were kept in beautifully decorated caskets known as reliquaries. These were shaped like little churches, and had pictures of windows on the side. They were often covered with gold or silver and set with precious stone.

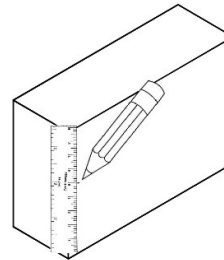
At Christmas time, a special decorated crib would be placed by the church altar, waiting for the arrival of Jesus. These were similar in design to reliquaries.

We are going to build a model of either a reliquary or a Christmas crib out of an empty cardboard box. The first stages are the same for both models.

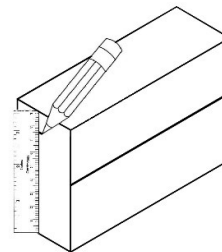
Take your empty box and glue the end closed.



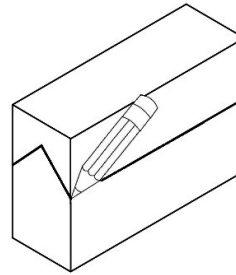
Now decide how tall you want the sides of the reliquary or crib. Measure this on the sides of your box and draw a straight line.



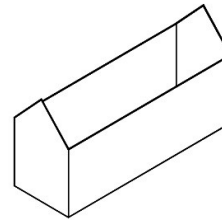
Now decide how tall you want the pointed ends of the reliquary or crib. Measure this on the ends of your box and mark it.



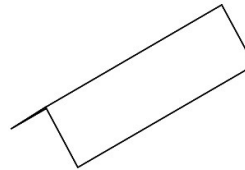
Now draw a line that goes from one side up to the point in the middle of the end of the box and back down to the opposite side. This should give you a pointed end as shown.



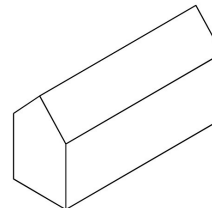
Now cut out your model along the lines drawn.



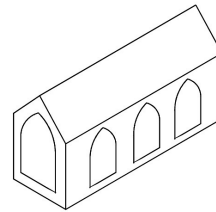
To make a reliquary we will need to put a top on our model. Take a piece of card the same length as your model and twice as wide as one side of your end point, and fold it in half to make your top.



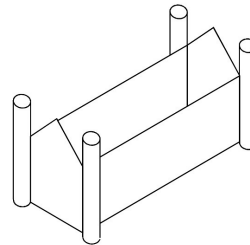
Glue your top to your reliquary.



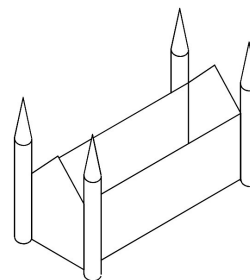
Now draw arched windows along the sides and ends of your reliquary and decorate. You can use paint, foil and even glue on coloured paper to represent precious stones.



To make a Christmas crib we will leave the box open, but we will add tubes of rolled paper to the corners.



Now roll some paper into cones and glue them to the top of the tubes.



Now draw arched windows along the sides and ends of your crib and decorate. You can use crepe paper to add blankets and a pillow for the future infant occupant.

