

# British Isles Experiences

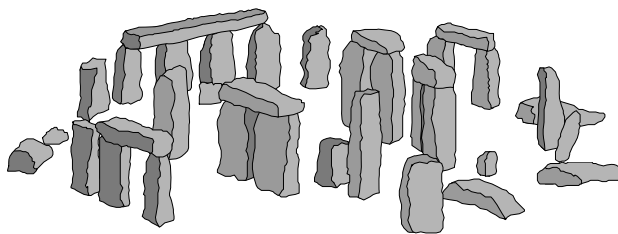
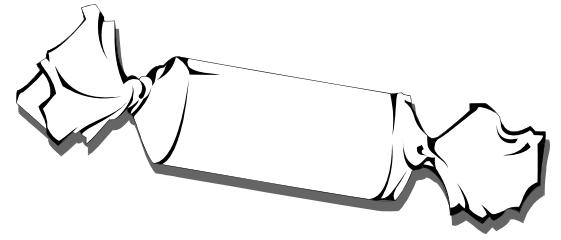
## Make English “Crackers”

On English tables at parties, you'd find “Crackers.” These aren't the thin, crispy and salty treats you may be used to, but instead are party favors filled with treats.

In England, they are often a part of Christmas celebrations and are made of cardboard tubes, wrapped in brightly decorated paper, twisted at both ends. English crackers are pulled by two people and it splits open, revealing the treats inside. When it is pulled, it is accompanied by a small bang caused by friction on a strip like those you'd find in a cap gun! The person who gets the larger portion of the cracker keeps everything in the tube. Sometimes you might find inside a paper crown or other hat, a small toy or joke. They are often wrapped in red, green or gold.

Originally it was Tom Smith, a confectioner (or sweets developer), who came up with idea for cracker. The idea for the “crackle” was inspired by the crackle of a log he put on a fire. His son Walter added ideas for the types of trinkets placed inside the cracker.

You can make your own crackers with empty toilet paper rolls. You can make fun hat, buy candy, or collect other small things to put inside. After stuffing the items inside, use a piece of gift wrap or tissue and roll it up around the tube. You could even decorate your own paper with designs. Twist the ends, and tie with ribbon.



## Create Stonehenge

Stonehenge is an ancient monument located near Amesbury in England. Large standing stones in a circle are thousands of years old, and are aligned with the sun and moon, leading people to believe they were designed to predict events in the heavens and stars. Most of the stones are about thirteen feet high and weigh about 25 tons. You might have a lot of fun trying to create a Stonehenge you can eat! How about making a miniature out of brownies? It would be fun to try and would make a great finishing touch to a celebration of English culture!

## English Invitations

When the English wanted to have a party, they issued invitations. The invitations were written on large sheets of white paper, often imprinting the first letter with a stamp. A messenger would be sent to deliver the invitation personally. This young boy was called a page, and he would take the invitation to the residence of the person to be invited, and politely wait for a response. Although you might not want to wait personally on anyone's doorstep, you can mail an invitation to a tea or other party, if you choose to! Designing your own invitations is fun. You could create your own stamp with homemade dough, carving your initial deep into the stamp, perhaps with some other decoration as well. Then, create invitations that look like cards, paint the initial stamp and press onto the front, then put the details about the event in the inside.