

LA SEMANA SANTA: The inside story



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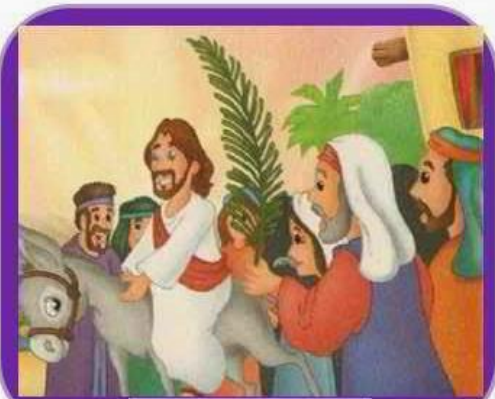
Semana Santa (Holy Week) is the Spanish celebration for Holy Week leading up to Easter, which dates back to the 16th century when the Catholic Church decided to present the story of the Passion of Christ in a way that the layperson could understand. From that point on, scenes from the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ were told through a series of processions through the streets each year.

The Holy Week festivities begin on Palm Sunday and continue with various Processions. It ends on Easter Sunday, in which we saw the promise of the Resurrection and eternal life

Semana Santa changes every year depending on when Easter falls, but it usually takes place around the last weeks of March or the first weeks of April.

In Semana Santa most of schools are closed in Spain and those children who are christians, celebrate those days with their families, going to church and processions.

SEMANA SANTA



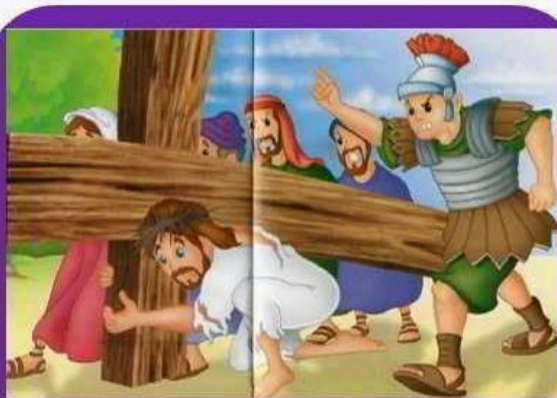
DOMINGO DE RAMOS



JUEVES SANTO: LA ULTIMA CENA



JUEVES SANTO: EL LAVADO DE LOS PIES



VIERNES SANTO: MUERTE DE JESUS



DOMINGO DE RESURRECCION

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Semana Santa is still celebrated in all the pomp and circumstance of 16th-century Spanish Catholicism in cities across Spain. Andalusian cities like Seville and Malaga particularly shine in this regard, but some Spaniards argue that "true Semana Santa" takes place in the region of Castile and León and Castilla-La Mancha (Toledo's Holy week is beautiful). Andalusian Semana Santa starts on the Sunday before Easter and lasts until Easter Sunday itself, while in Castile and León events run from two Fridays before, making for 10 days of celebration in total. In Toledo, Semana Santa celebrations are even longer, starting on the Thursday two weeks before Semana Santa itself.

Semana Santa Food

Semana Santa, like any other festival, has its own special flavours and this is especially during this week because traditionally Catholics are not supposed to eat meat.

Potaje (chickpea and cod stew) is a favourite in many areas as well as a vegetarian dish called *garbanzos con espinacas* (chickpeas with spinach, which usually has a lot of garlic and is a wonderfully tasty way to eat spinach).

A favourite dessert during Holy Week is **Torrijas**. These are slices of bread dipped in egg then soaked in wine or milk, fried and sweetened with sugar and sprinkled with cinnamon.

Another typical sweet at this time of year is the **pestiño** (fried, honey-glazed pastries).

Buñuelos are a delightful Semana Santa recipe that everyone adores. These bite-size donut holes are fried in olive oil and rolled in sugar, try to eat just one!

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Torrijas



Potaje

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Pestiños



Buñuelos

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Processions

Though the style and mood of Semana Santa in Spain vary from city to city, the basic components remain the same. Each day there are a number of processions, one from each religious brotherhood in the city, made up of floats that are carried from their church to the town's central cathedral and back again.

Most brotherhoods carry two floats, one with Christ and one with his mourning mother, Mary the Virgin. Each procession is different and each has its own particular followers, either due to the location of the church or the exact nature of the procession. The presence of or type of music, the time of day, and the size of the church all factor into the crowds that follow these displays.

The floats are heavy, especially so in Andalusia, which is the most extravagant region for Semana Santa. Strong men carry the floats, but with the procession lasting many hours, even they will feel the pain. The suffering experienced is likened to that experienced by Christ and the men—known as *costaleros*—consider it a great honor to carry the float, despite (and indeed, because of) the pain involved.

You can also expect to witness several *saetas* during Semana Santa. These performances of flamenco are sung from one of the balconies in the narrow streets of the city. Although they were once spontaneous outbursts of worshippers overcome with emotion, they are invariably preplanned these days, and the entire procession stops to listen until the song is finished.

Listen to a Saeta in:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BslaxTCo8M8&ab_channel=AntonioGil



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Special days

Along Semana Santa there are many relevant and significant moments for Christians:

Palm Sunday, also called **Passion Sunday**, in the Christian tradition, the first day of Semana santa and the Sunday before Easter, commemorating Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It is associated in many churches with the blessing and procession of palms [palms](#) (leaves of the date palm or twigs from locally available trees, olive trees in Toledo)



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Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday or Good Thursday, has been celebrated since the earliest days of the Christian Church. It commemorates Jesus' last supper with his disciples and the institution of the Lord's Supper and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist. The night of Maundy Thursday is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane.



Good Friday. The most important events in Christianity are the death and later resurrection of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God, and whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity.

After the last supper, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, put on trial, sentenced to death. He was then tied and nailed by the wrists and feet to a large wooden cross and left to die. This is why the cross is used as a symbol of the Christian faith. Good Friday is a day of mourning. During special Good Friday services Christians meditate on Jesus's suffering and death on the cross, and what this means for their faith.



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Holy Saturday is a mourning day when the Paschal Vigil is celebrated, preparing for the feast of the resurrection with the liturgy of lit candles



Easter Sunday, "el Domingo de Resurrección" literally meaning "Resurrection Sunday," is known as the day of resurrection as Jesus Christ is believed to have been tortured and crucified on Good Friday but to have risen from the dead on the third day, Easter Sunday.



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A children's tradition as well...

Children love Semana Santa and they like taking part in porccesions. "La Semana Santa Chiquita" (Little Holy week) in Andalucia and "La Borriquilla" (The She-Donkey) in Castilla y León are very famous

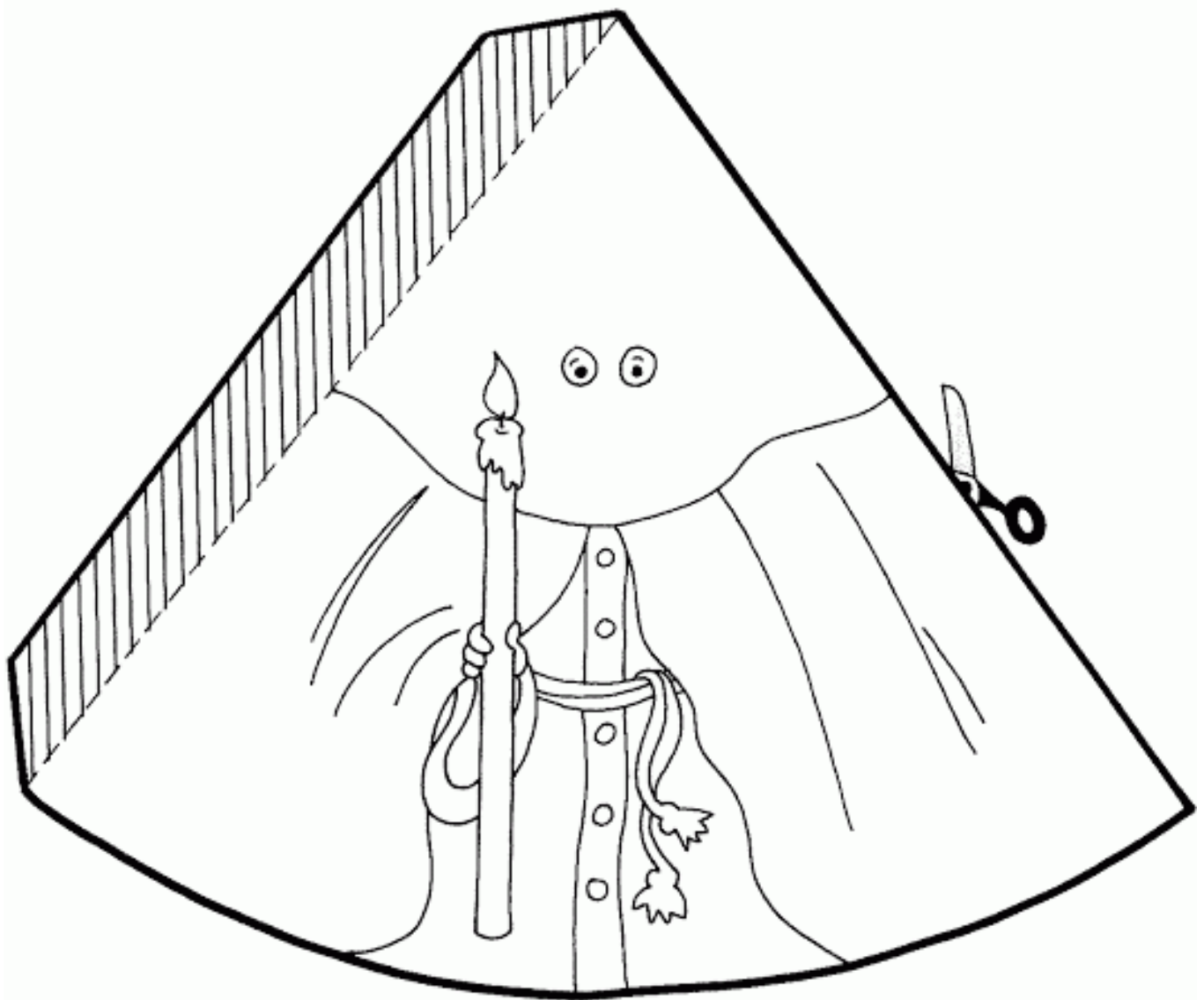


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Activities:

HOLY WEEK PENITENT (INFANT ED. & 6-7 YEARS OLD)

- Print the picture in a piece of paper or cardboard
- Colour it according pictures shown before
- Cut it off and fold it like a cone



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You can also make a penitent using color papers, scissors, adhesive tape, glue and empty toilet paper rolls

1. Colour the toilet paper roll and draw circles (They'll be bottoms)
2. Cut some paper and roll it. It should be 10 cm long (it'll be a candle)



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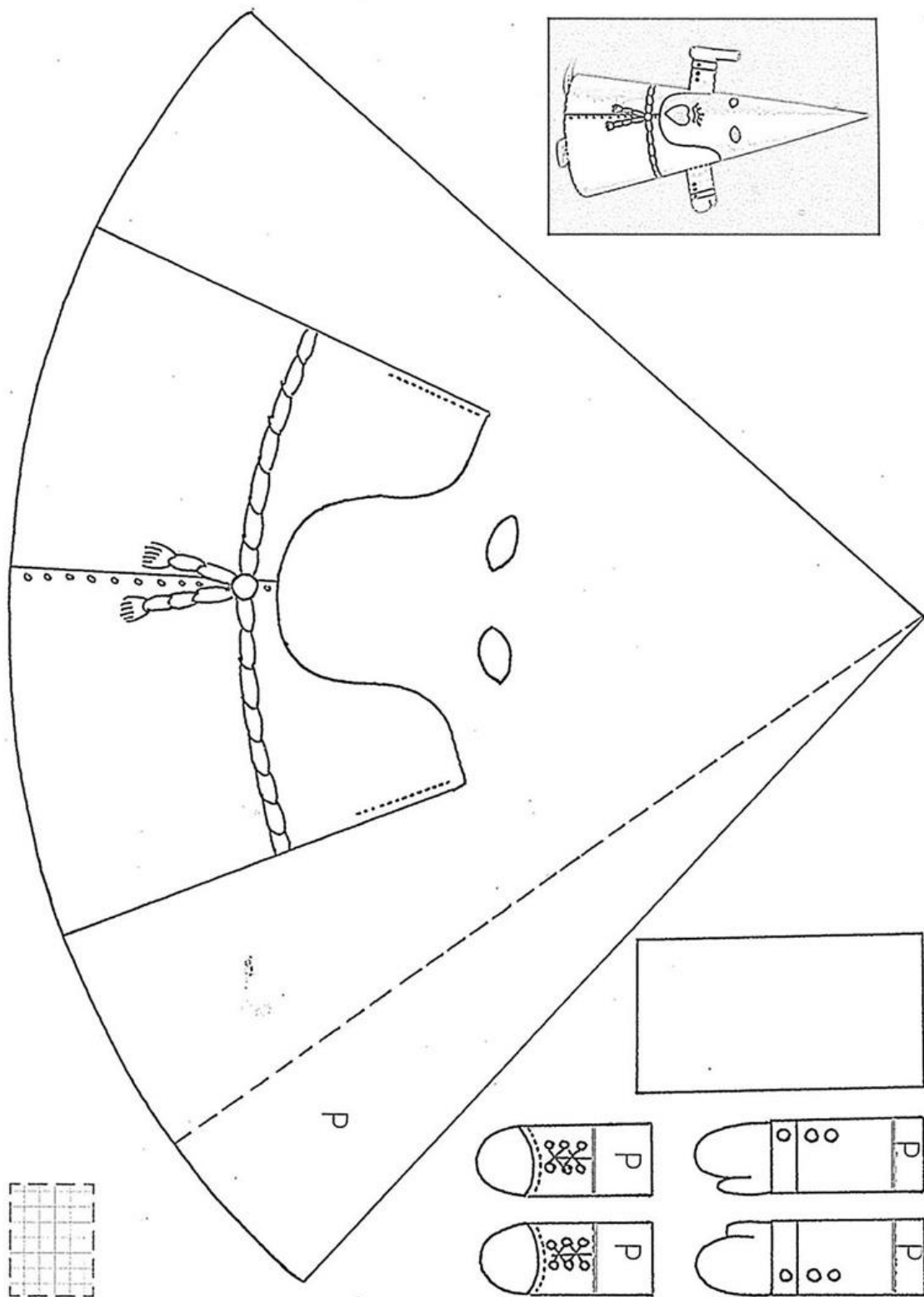
3. Fold a colored paper sheet like a cone, using adhesive tape to get taht shape. Place i ton the paper roll.



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HOLY WEEK PENITENT (7-8 YEARS OLD)

Use this model to make it

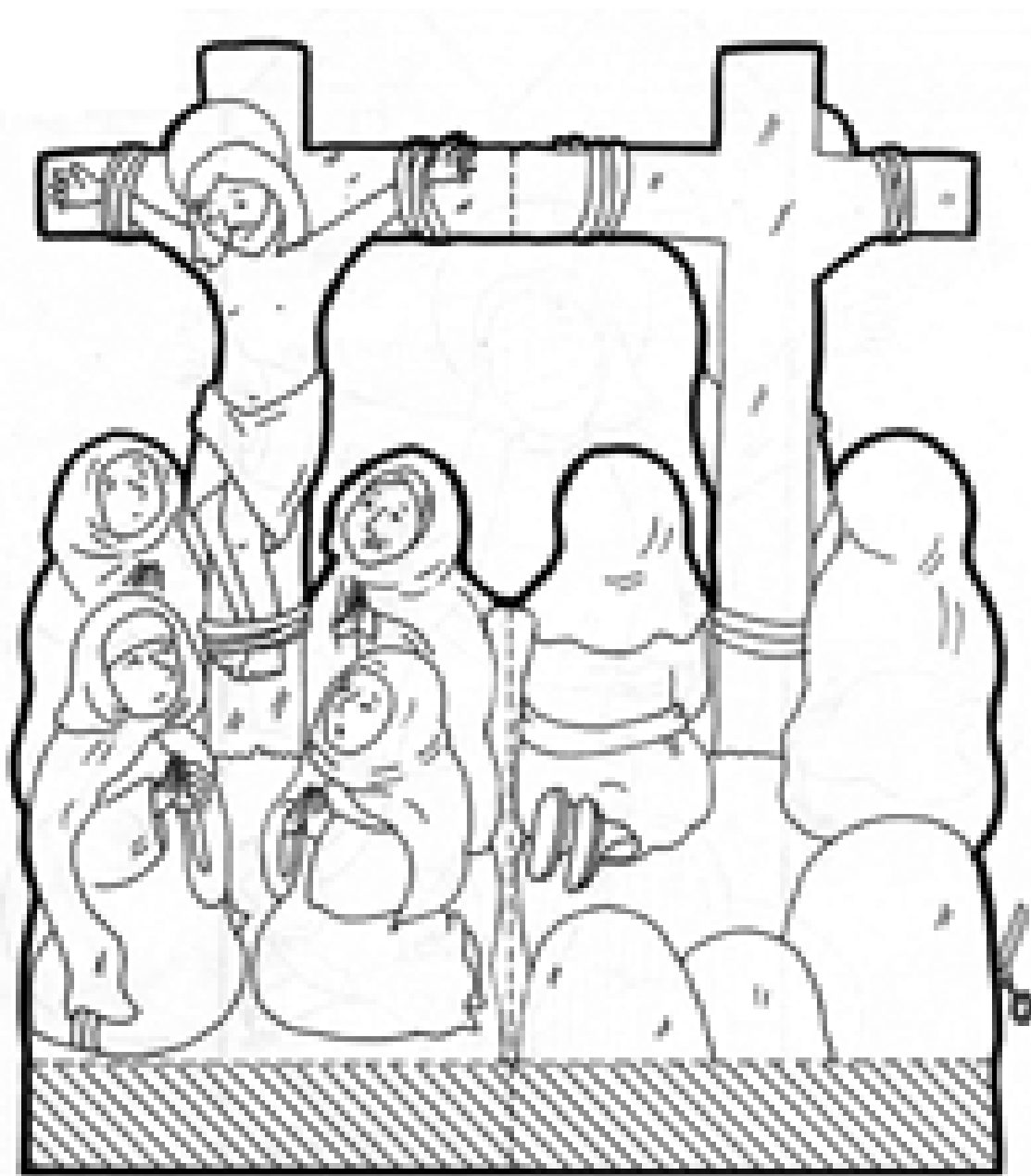


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"SEMANA SANTA PASO" (8-9 YEARS OLD)

We need a 10cmx12cm piece of cardboard, 4 sticks and colours

1. Print the picture and colour it
2. Cut it off following the line and fold it simmetrically
3. Use the part of the paper with lines to stick it to the piece of cardboard

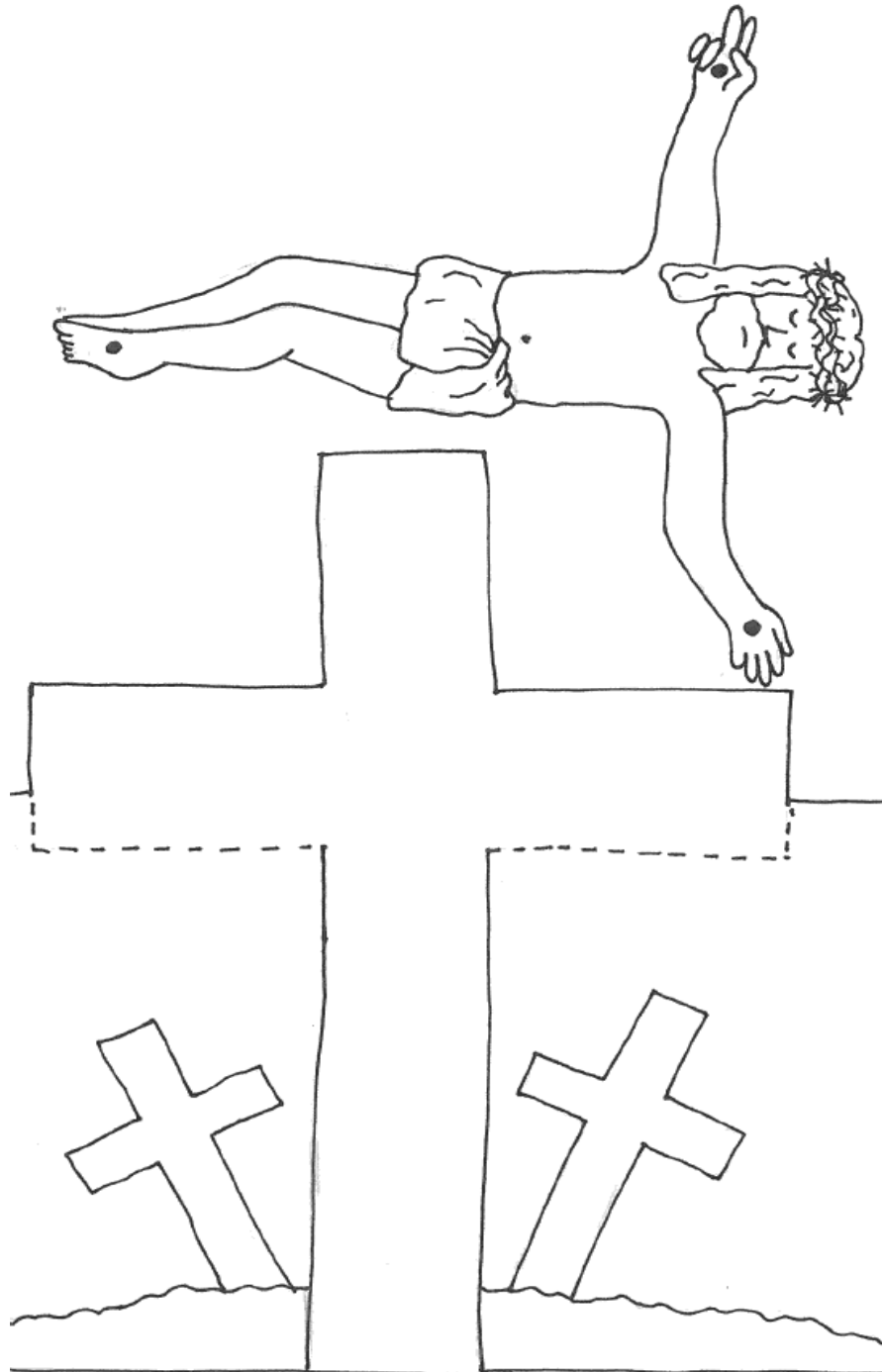


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"SEMANA SANTA PASO" (9-10 YEARS OLD)

Materials: A shoe box, white, purple and red tissue paper, green and Golden cardboard, glue, scissors and white glue.

1. Wrap the box with Green cardboard. On the top borders we use golden cardboard
2. Colour this Jesus Crist picture, cut it off and stick it on the cross



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3. With glue, place and stick Jesus Crist on the top of the box. Use the tissue paper to make flower to decorate the lid of the box.



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THE CROSS (-12 YEARS OLD)

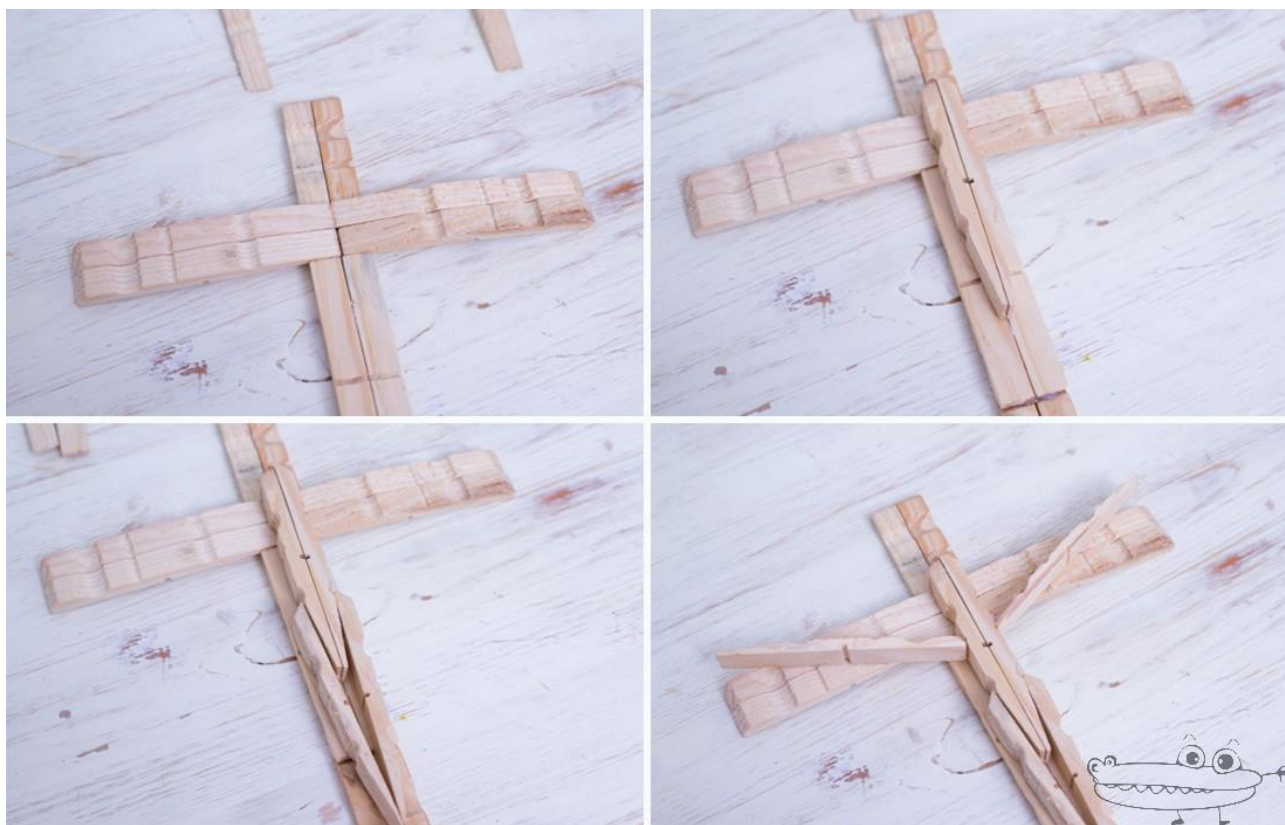
We need wood clothespins and a hot glue gun



Remove springs from clothespins and put them together again, following steps in the pictures, using glue



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Your piece of work should be like this:



HOPE YOU LIKE IT!!!

