Handprint Christmas Tree Card Instructions

This craft is quick, uses simple materials, and is easy to do in groups.

Materials You Will Need

- **Cardstock or Construction Paper:** Green for the main card, or a base color (like white, blue, or red) for the card, and green paint.

- **Green Washable Paint:** Tempera or craft paint works best.

- **Shallow Dish/Paper Plate:** For dipping hands.

- **Brown Marker or Construction Paper:** To make the tree trunk.

- **Small Decorations (Optional):**

  - Glitter or glitter glue (if you are brave!)

  - Small pom-poms or rhinestones for "ornaments"

  - Markers or paint for "lights"

  - A yellow star sticker or cutout for the top.

- **Wet Wipes or Sink Access:** For quick clean-up.

Step-by-Step Directions

1. **Prepare the Card:** Fold a piece of white or colored cardstock in half to form the base of the card.

2. **Prepare the Paint:** Pour a shallow layer of green paint onto the paper plate or dish.

3. **The Handprint:** Have the student dip their hand into the green paint, ensuring the entire palm and fingers are covered evenly.

4. Create the "Tree":

- Carefully have the student press their painted hand onto the front of the folded card, near the center and a little lower than the top.

- They can then make a **second and possibly third handprint** slightly overlapping the first and at a different angle to create a fuller, triangular Christmas tree shape. The palm of the handprint forms the base of the branch, and the fingers look like the pine needles.

5. **Clean Up:** Immediately help the student wash their hands with water and soap or use a wet wipe.

6. **Add the Trunk (After Drying):** Once the green paint is dry, the student can use a brown marker or a small brown piece of paper to create a trunk at the bottom center of the tree.

7. **Decorate!** This is the fun part!

- Use the small decorations (pom-poms, stickers) to act as ornaments on the tree.

- Use markers to draw colorful lights or garland.

- Place a star sticker or a drawn yellow star at the very top.

8. **Personalize:** Open the card and have the student write or dictate a message to their grandparents, like *"Merry Christmas, Love..."* and their name.