

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. The sun has been shining earlier in the morning, but we still see winter darkness at night. This week, we will have an art project that highlights the bright white of the birch tree contrasted with a dark blue evening background. The white-barked birch tree was widely used as a trading tool of native Americans to obtain needed items from other tribes or canoe transporters from across northern Canada. The birch tree is very hardy—a force of nature, and known to regrow after tragedy like fire or blight. In some cultures, the birch is thought to bring goodness and luck when the branches are hung around the door. Maybe if you hang your art at the front door, you will have extra special goodness come to your home or just have the goodness of a special art project to share with visitors.



1-Use blue or black paper for a contrast to the white tree. Tear long strips of newspaper or white paper to use as birch trees. Try tearing the paper in different sizes. Glue the strips to the dark paper. Then add shorter branches. If you do not have dark paper, glue the trees and branches down on white paper and color around the trees in dark blue. Outline the trees with a black pen or marker. It is not always easy to get the lines straight, so go slow.

2- Red cardinals are often seen in the bright white trees because they stay in their habits through the winter. At night, you may see a night owl. Try your hand at drawing a cardinal and color it the red of the male cardinal. Add one of these friends to your winter birch tree scene. You can also add different words from the newspaper or letters that spell your family name on the bottom of the picture. Or you could use the same idea to make a snowflake pattern with the strips of paper. Many possibilities!

Wishing you winter goodness!

Ms. Susan

