

# Candle-Making



**Ponder this:** Electric light bulbs weren't available until the late 1800's. The missionaries arrived in Hawai'i in 1820. What do you think they used for light at night? If you said candles, you are correct! In fact, hand dipped candle making was an important chore for missionary children to light their homes at night. This candle making activity is fun, and it also helps teach kids about colonial history.

## What You Need:

A long, thin metal can and Old saucepan (It will get messy!)  
1.5 pounds of wax, or enough to fill your can seven inches when melted (We recommend beeswax because it is the most historically accurate to colonial times. Bonus: It also smells great and results in a soft, buttery texture! Other options include paraffin wax and old candle stubs with the wicks removed.) Candle wicks (available at craft stores) or plain string, cut to 15-inch lengths Straight, 12-inch long sticks (one for each candle)

## What You Do:

1. Add two inches of water to your saucepan. Put your metal can inside of the sauce pan. Place a chunk of wax into your **can** and place in the center of the saucepan to create a water bath.
2. Boil water and melt the wax until completely liquid.
3. Prepare wicks while wax melts. Tie one end of the string around a stick with a secure knot.
4. Lay down newspapers and/or bring can of melted wax and wicks outside.

5. Hold the sticks with the strings attached over the can of melted wax, and dip quickly in and out. Each dip should leave a thin coat of wax on the wick. For best results, keep the wick straight and dip quickly—leaving it in too long could result in the entire candle melting!
6. Allow the first layer of wax to cool. Some fun ideas: dip the entire candle in a bucket of cool water to speed up the process, or have your child speedwalk while holding the candle wick for the 'run and cool' method.
7. Repeat steps five and six until your candle is the desired size.
8. Note: You may need to melt the wax again. To do this, just return the can to the saucepan and boil until melted. If excess wax balls up at the end of the wick, cut off the end so that the wick is even with the end of the candle, then return the ball of wax to the can.