

# Christmas Kissing Bough

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## What you need:

- ✎ 3 – 5 fresh cedar boughs, approximately 15 to 18 inches long
- ✎ Florist wire
- ✎ Wire snips
- ✎ Satin ribbon
- ✎ Wrapped candies and string (optional)

## Historical Stuff:

We don't have a lot of historical information about how our settlers decorated their homes for Christmas. We do know, from diaries and journals, that they brought evergreen boughs and bright berries in, as was common tradition in the homelands of our settlers. The evergreens brought a fresh smell to the home that would be welcome in the colder months when doors and windows were not opened as often. And people had been bringing in greenery and red berries for centuries, as symbols of fertility and rejuvenation. No one in Upper Canada seems to have written about how they displayed them. However, there is mention of the Kissing Bough in English records. You can use the kissing bough like mistletoe (which did not grow here, and was not available in Upper Canada's early years). If you add candies, you remove a candy when you receive a kiss!

## Kissing Bough Instructions:

1. - Assemble cedar boughs, ribbon, and a piece of florist wire about the length of one bough.
2. - Take the piece of wire and fold it loosely in half. Twist a few times so that you have a loop, and the ends are free.
3. - Gather the boughs together. (Make sure they are all shiny side up!).
4. - Take the boughs and hold them with the stem ends even and together.
5. - Take the length of wire and wind it around the stem ends tightly, taking care to keep your loop free. (This loop is for hanging your kissing bough somewhere at home). It might help to put your finger in the loop so it doesn't disappear. Keep twisting until you've used up all of the wire.
6. - Tie the wide ribbon around the stem, covering the twisted wire, but not the loop.
7. - Make a big bow.
8. - Tie a knot around each candy with the pieces of string. Then tie the candy to branches of the bough.