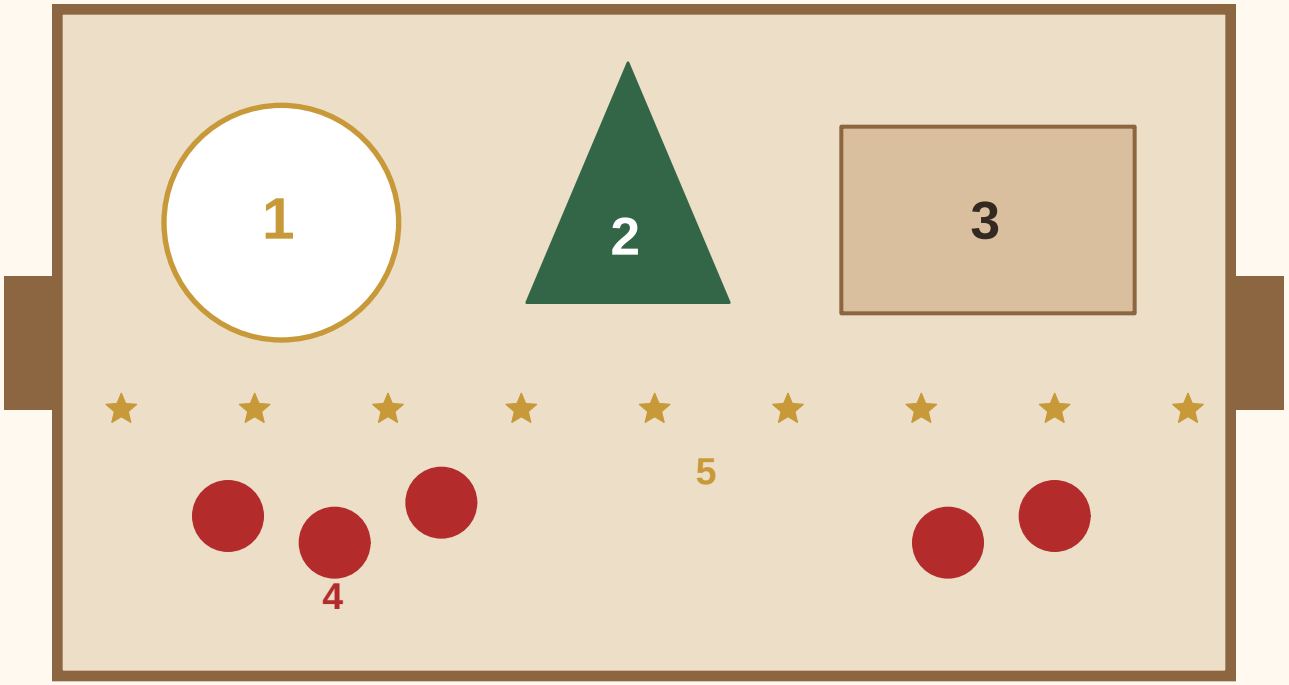
The Christmas Tray Formula

Style any tray in 5 layers. Follow the numbers from back to front.



1 Height — One tall piece in a back corner: candle in a hurricane, lantern, bottle brush tree or a bud vase.

2 Medium — A mid-height piece next to it: mini tree, ceramic house, small vase or candle cluster.

3 Base — Something flat to lift other items: stacked books, a small cake stand, a wood slice or a cutting board.

4 Filler — Fill the gaps in groups of 3 or 5: ornaments, pine cones, oranges, sugared fruit, candy.

5 Texture & sparkle — Finish with greenery sprigs, fairy lights, ribbon or a bead garland across the front.

Golden rules: odd numbers, 3 colors max, different heights, leave a little breathing room.

Free printable from craftyfever.com

6 Christmas Tray Themes

Pick a theme and check off what you have. Shop the rest at a thrift or dollar store.

Rustic Farmhouse

- [ ] Wood tray with handles
- [ ] Pillar candle + hurricane
- [ ] Mini potted pine
- [ ] Pine cones + cedar
- [ ] Plaid ribbon
- [ ] Fairy lights

Elegant Gold

- [ ] Round gold tray
- [ ] 3 taper candles
- [ ] Eucalyptus garland
- [ ] Champagne ornaments
- [ ] Sugared pears
- [ ] Bud vase + white rose

Hot Cocoa Station

- [ ] White tray
- [ ] 2 plaid mugs
- [ ] Jar of marshmallows
- [ ] Jar of candy canes
- [ ] Mini bottle brush tree
- [ ] Holly sprig

Nordic Minimal

- [ ] Light wood or white tray
- [ ] White ceramic houses
- [ ] 1 white candle
- [ ] Dried orange slices
- [ ] Twig or birch branch
- [ ] Linen napkin

Candy Land

- [ ] Pink or white tray
- [ ] Peppermint candies
- [ ] Gingerbread figures
- [ ] Striped candle
- [ ] Pastel ornaments
- [ ] Mini cake stand

Woodland Cabin

- [ ] Wood slice or tray
- [ ] Lantern
- [ ] Deer or bear figurine
- [ ] Moss + pine cones
- [ ] Mushroom ornaments
- [ ] Red berries

My Christmas Tray Plan

Sketch your tray, choose 3 colors and list what you need.

Where: _____ **Tray shape / size:** _____

sketch your tray here

My 3 colors:

1 Height	_____	☐ have	☐ buy
2 Medium	_____	☐ have	☐ buy
3 Base	_____	☐ have	☐ buy
4 Filler	_____	☐ have	☐ buy
5 Texture & sparkle	_____	☐ have	☐ buy

Budget: $ _____