THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS · DECEMBER 25 TO JANUARY 5

Gingerbread Nativity cookies

Prep 30 min **Cook** 10 min **Chill** 1 hr **Total** 1 hr 40 min **Makes** About 24 cookies **Level** Easy

ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED
Cooking is for children and grown-ups together. An adult should supervise at all times and handle the oven, stovetop, knives, and anything hot.

ALLERGY INFORMATION
Contains wheat (gluten), milk, and egg. Always read ingredient labels, since brands vary, and ask about food allergies before you cook or share.

INGREDIENTS

Cookies

- 3 cups (375 g) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground cloves
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¾ cup (170 g) butter, softened
- ¾ cup (150 g) packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ cup (170 g) molasses or black treacle

To decorate

- Simple icing: 1 cup (120 g) powdered sugar mixed with 1 to 2 tbsp milk

METHOD

1. Whisk the flour, baking soda, spices, and salt in a bowl.
2. Beat the butter and brown sugar until fluffy. Beat in the egg and molasses.
3. Mix in the flour mixture to make a soft dough. Divide in half, flatten into disks, wrap, and chill for at least 1 hour.
4. Heat the oven to 350°F (175°C) and line baking sheets. Roll the dough ¼ inch (6 mm) thick on a floured surface.
5. Cut out angels, stars, sheep, people, and a manger. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, until set at the edges. Cool for 5 minutes on the sheet, then on a rack.
6. Pipe or spread icing to add halos, wool, faces, and straw. Let it set before stacking.

LITTLE HELPERS CAN (WITH A GROWN-UP)

- Choose the cookie cutters
- Cut out the shapes
- Add halos and wool with icing
- Set up the cookie Nativity and tell the story

GOOD TO KNOW

- No Nativity cutters? Use a gingerbread person for Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, a star, and a rectangle for the manger.
- Cookies keep for 1 week in an airtight tin.

A BLESSING BEFORE WE EAT

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.