

# Introduction

In this Christmas Symbols Coloring Unit for kids and adults, you'll find the history of Christmas trees, candy canes, and Christmas tree ornaments. Following each section of history are coloring pages as well as notebooking pages with two different styles of lines. These pages can be used for journaling thoughts about Christmas or the traditions discussed. Just print the pages that work for how you want to use the unit. Have fun, and Merry Christmas!





## Christmas Tree



There are many ideas about the origin of the Christmas tree. Evergreen trees have symbolized eternal life for centuries, but when they began being used as a symbol of Christmas cannot be agreed upon .



One tradition goes back to Germany in approximately the year 722, when Boniface encountered people who were about to kill a child near a large oak tree. He stopped them by cutting down the tree. A fir tree grew up near its base, and Boniface told people it was a symbol of the promise of eternal life from the Christ child.



Another tradition dates to the 11<sup>th</sup> century when religious plays, such as the "paradise play" about the Garden of Eden, were performed. The play had only one prop, which was a fir tree decorated with apples. The play ended with the promise of a Savior who would come to save the world. People began putting up their own paradise trees in their homes on Christmas Eve to remember the coming of Christ.



Others believe that people in Germany and the Scandinavian countries put evergreen trees either outside their homes, close to the door, or inside their homes to show that they were trusting that spring would come soon.

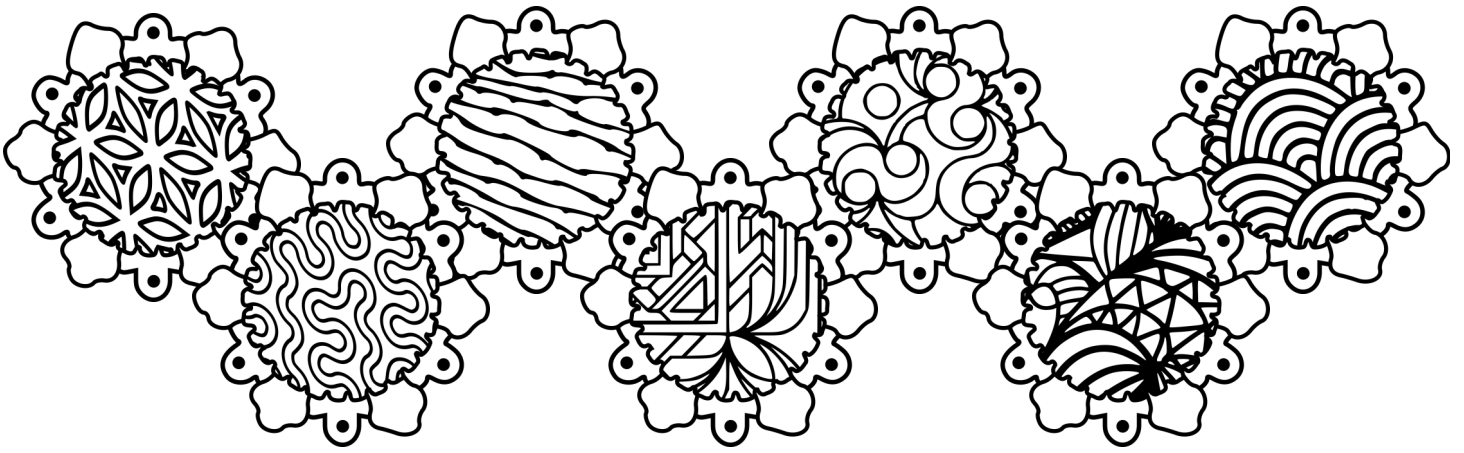


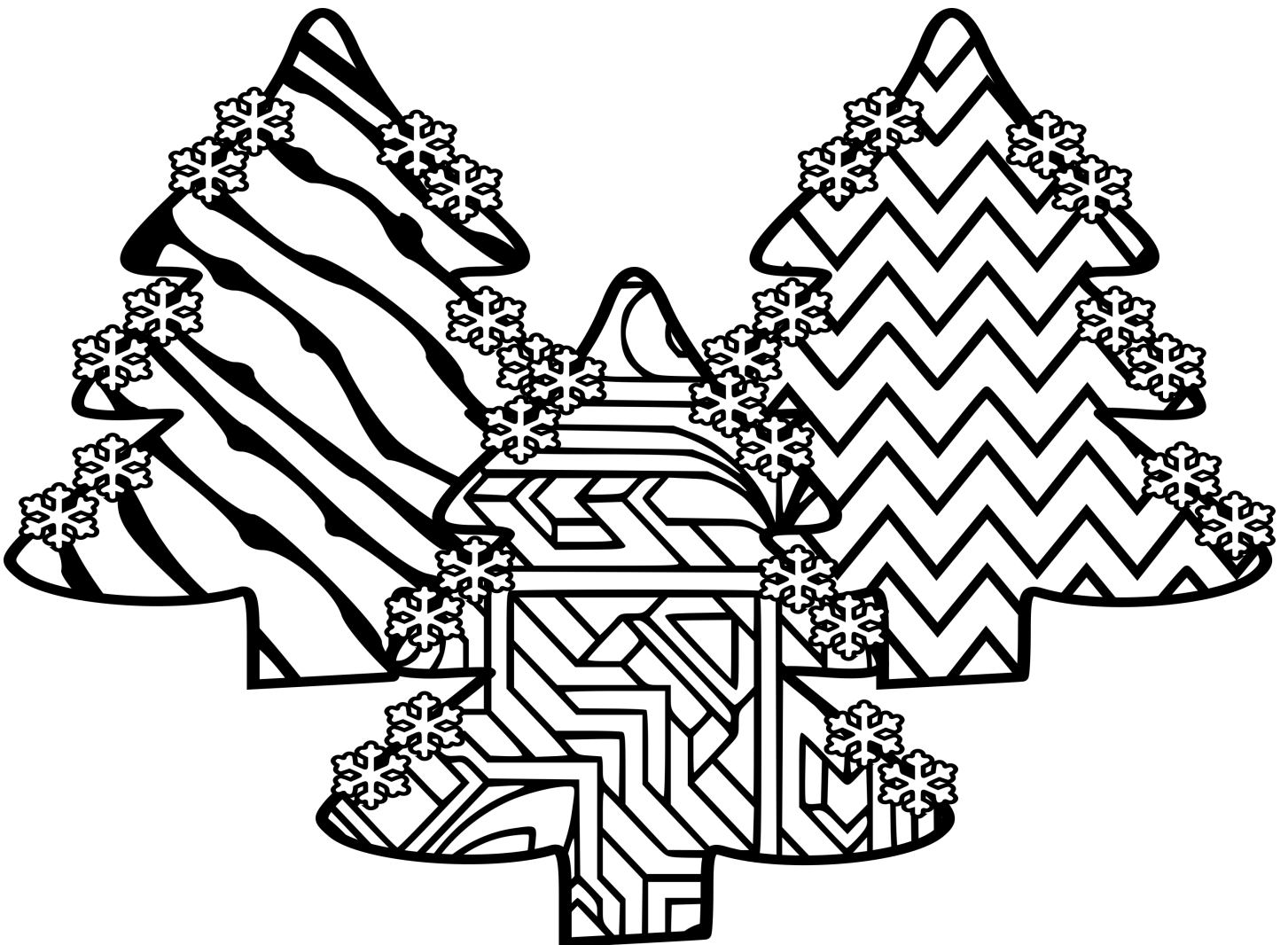
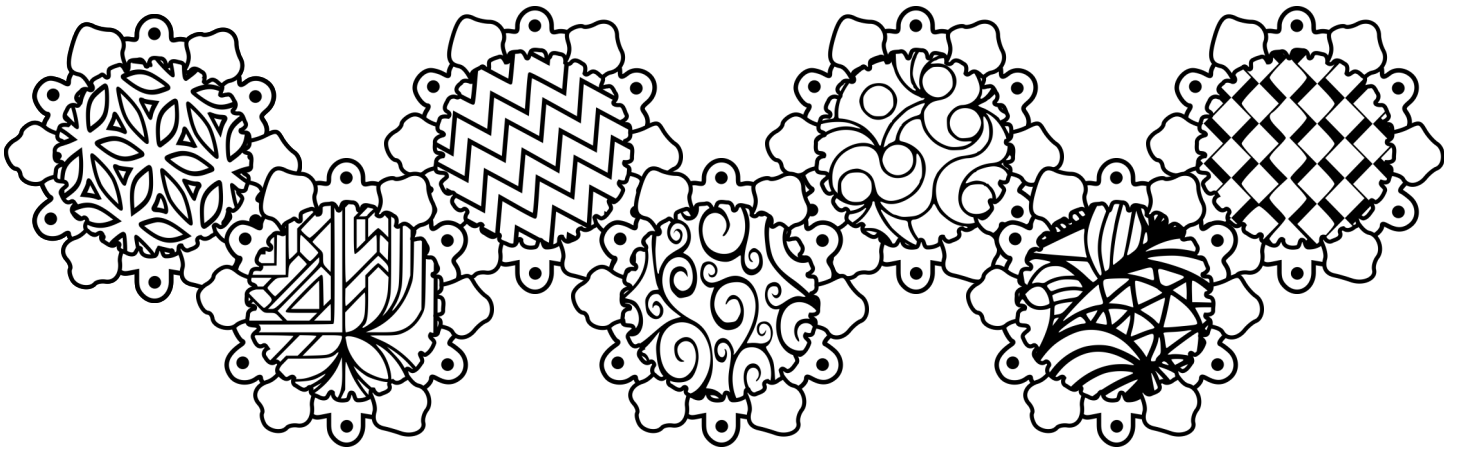
Some people think that Martin Luther was walking home on Christmas Eve in about 1500 and saw the beautiful trees with the snow on their branches. When he got home, he put a small fir tree up and decorated it with small candles, lighting them to remember the birth of Christ, the Light of the World.



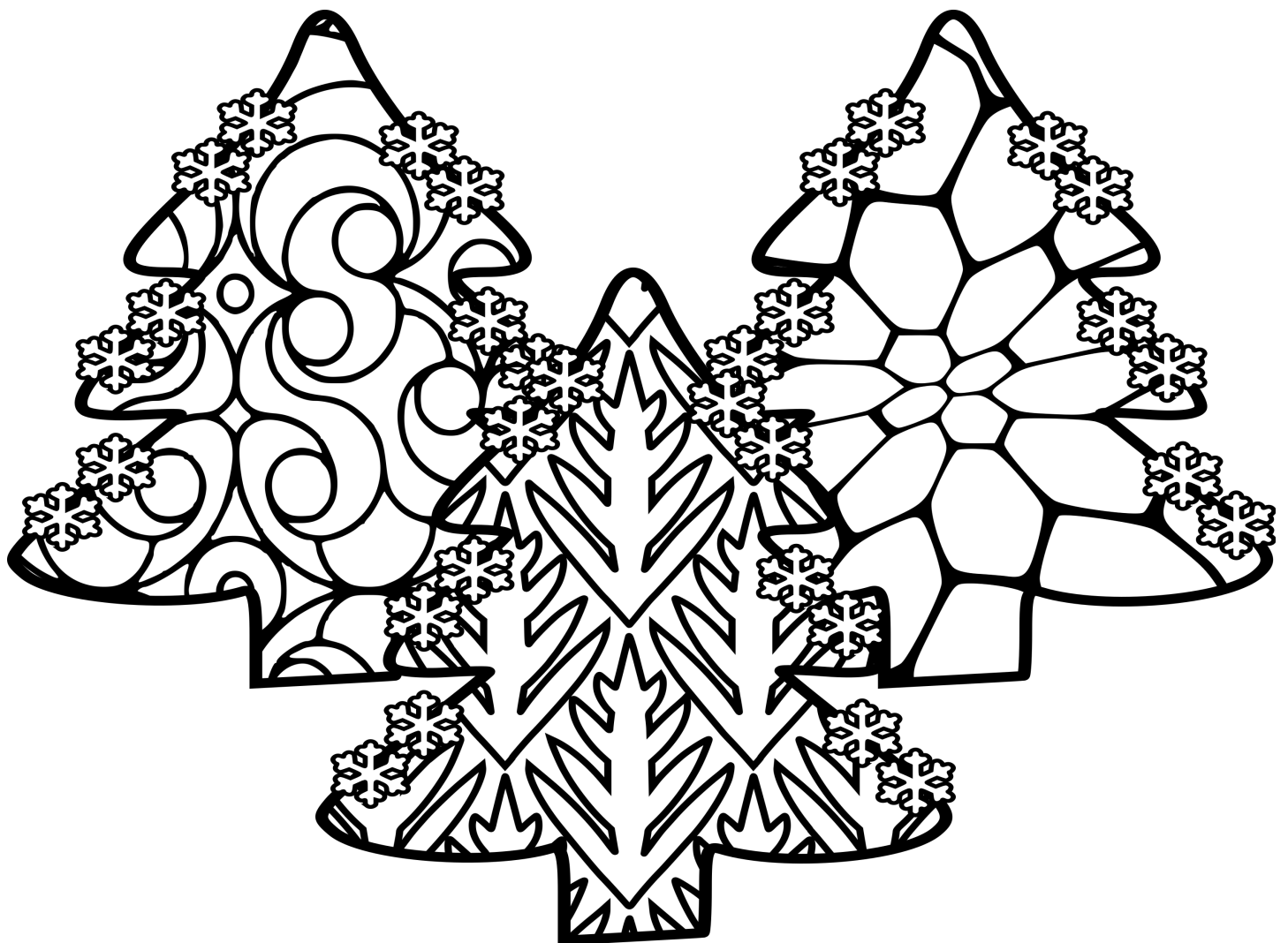
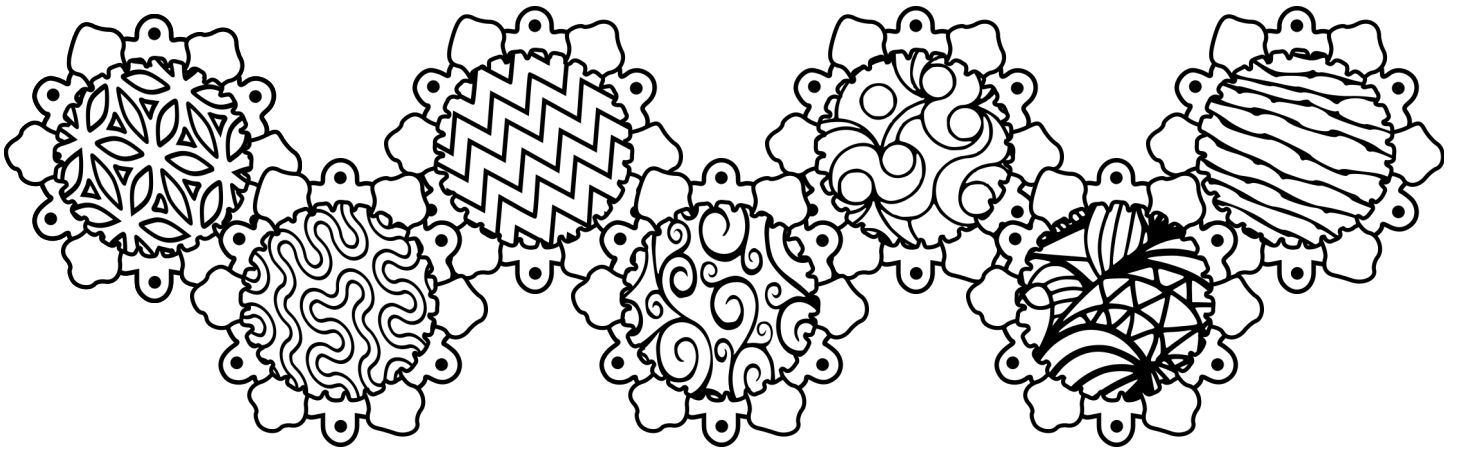
The Christmas tree became popular in England and spread to many parts of the world. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, was from Germany where Christmas trees were already common. In the mid-1800s, he put up a tree in Windsor for the British royal family. Engravings were made of the family in front of the decorated tree and the people of England, who greatly loved their queen, copied the tradition.

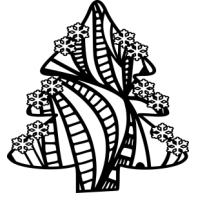






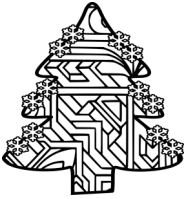






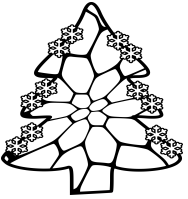
Four sets of primary writing lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, positioned at the top of the page.

Twelve sets of primary writing lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, filling the main body of the page for handwriting practice.



Four horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

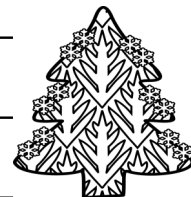
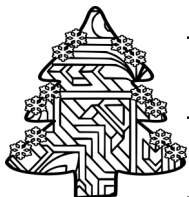
Multiple sets of horizontal lines for handwriting practice, each set consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



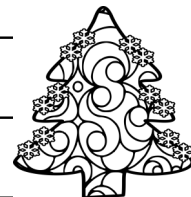
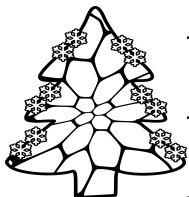
Four sets of horizontal lines for handwriting practice, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Twelve sets of horizontal lines for handwriting practice, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

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## Candy Cane

There are many stories about how the candy cane came to be a symbol of Christmas. One says that in 1670, a choir director in Cologne, Germany, got the candy to keep the children's attention during the living Nativity ceremony at church. In order to make the candy fit the holiday, he asked the candy maker to bend the plain white sugar sticks at the top so each one looked like a shepherd's staff, with a hook on the top. Remember that back then, candy canes were solid white, not striped. The idea of giving candy canes to children at Christmas church services spread over time and became a tradition.

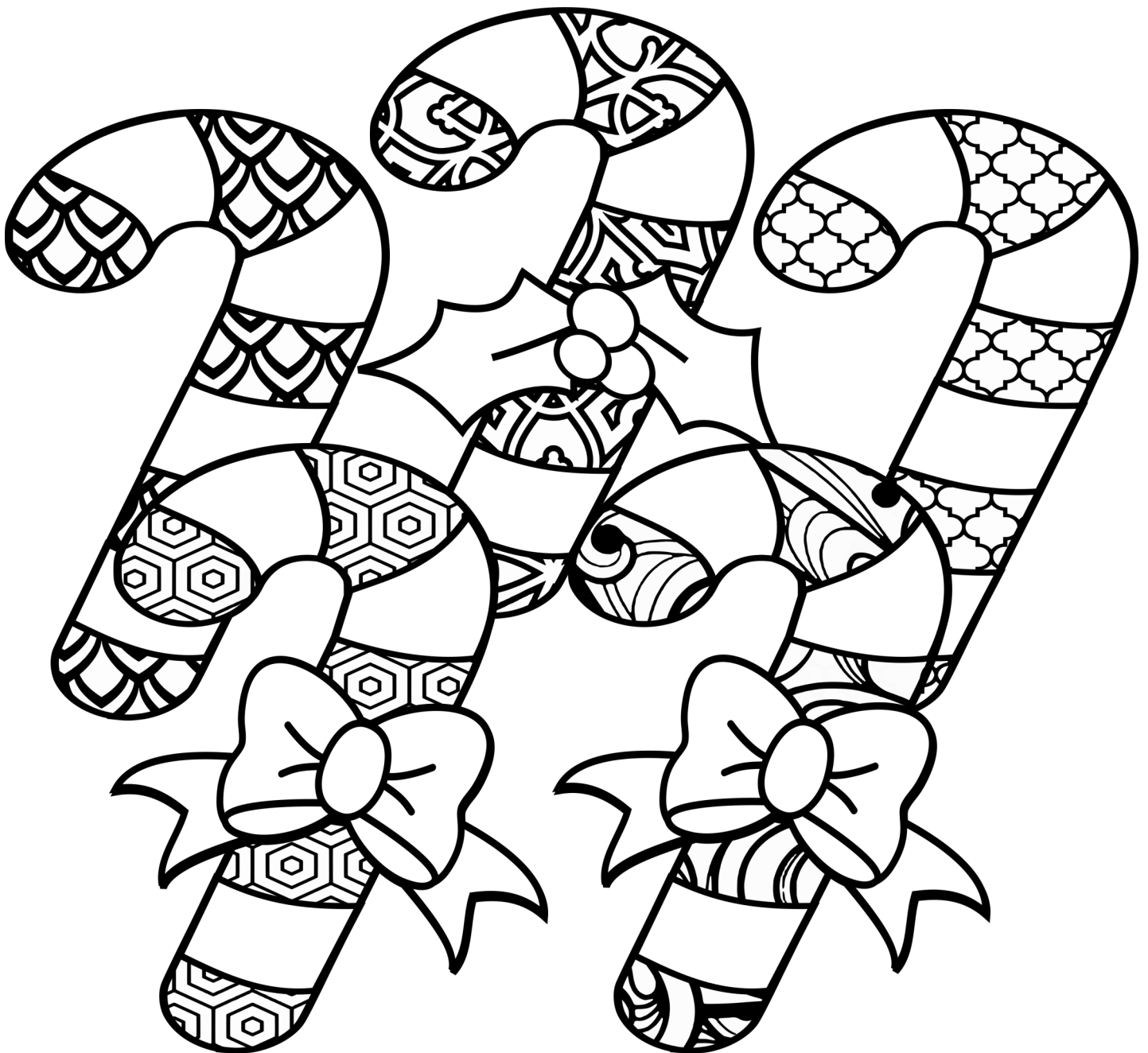
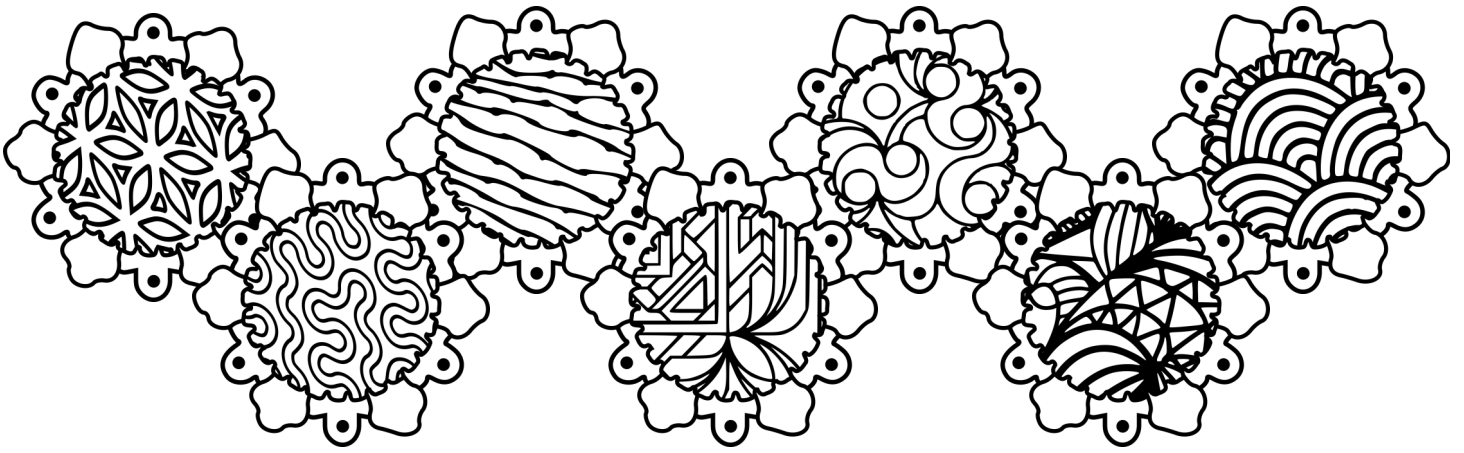
The first known occurrence of using candy canes to decorate a tree in the United States is said to have happened in 1847, in Wooster, Ohio, when August Imgard used them as decorations on a Christmas tree.

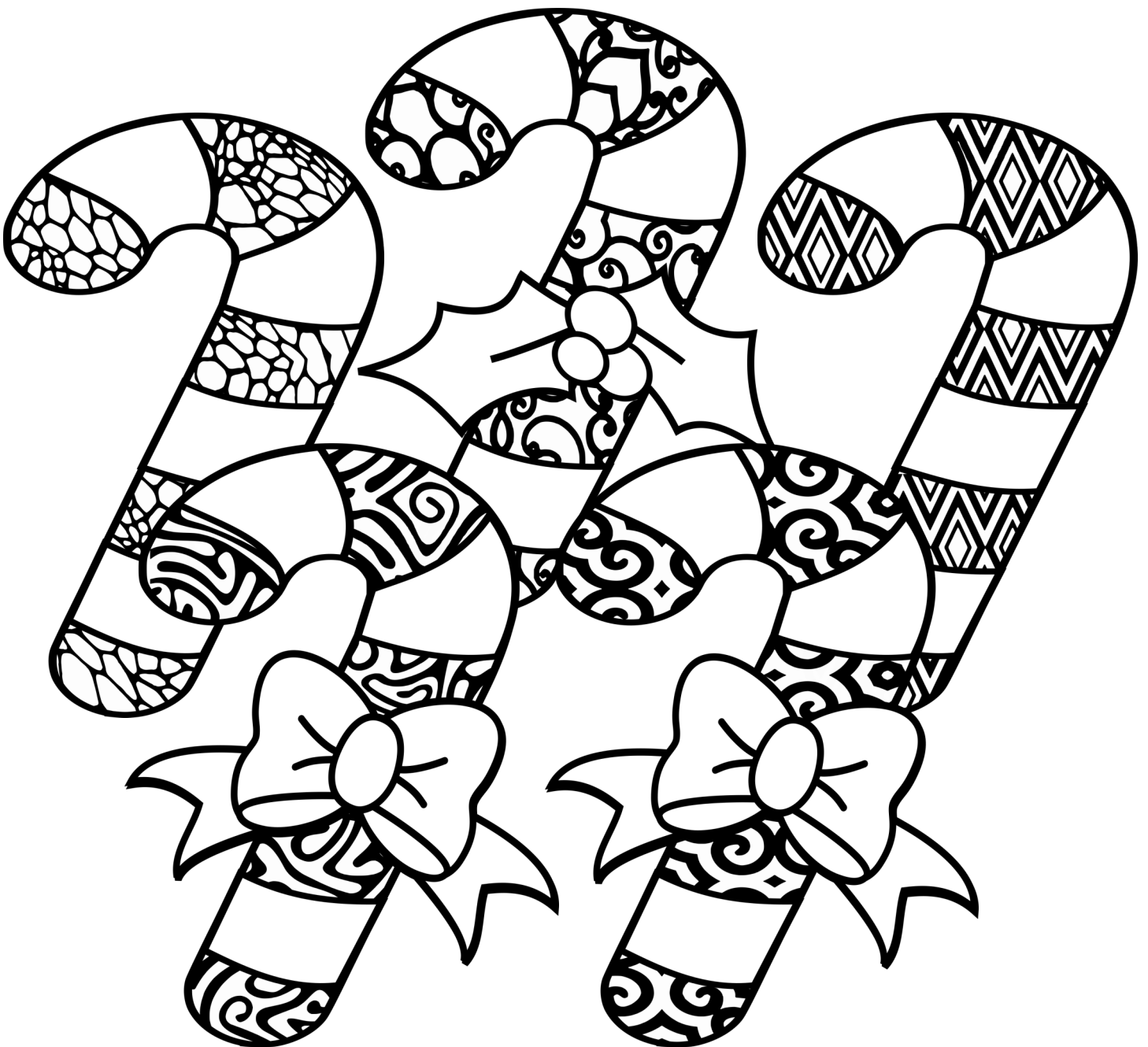
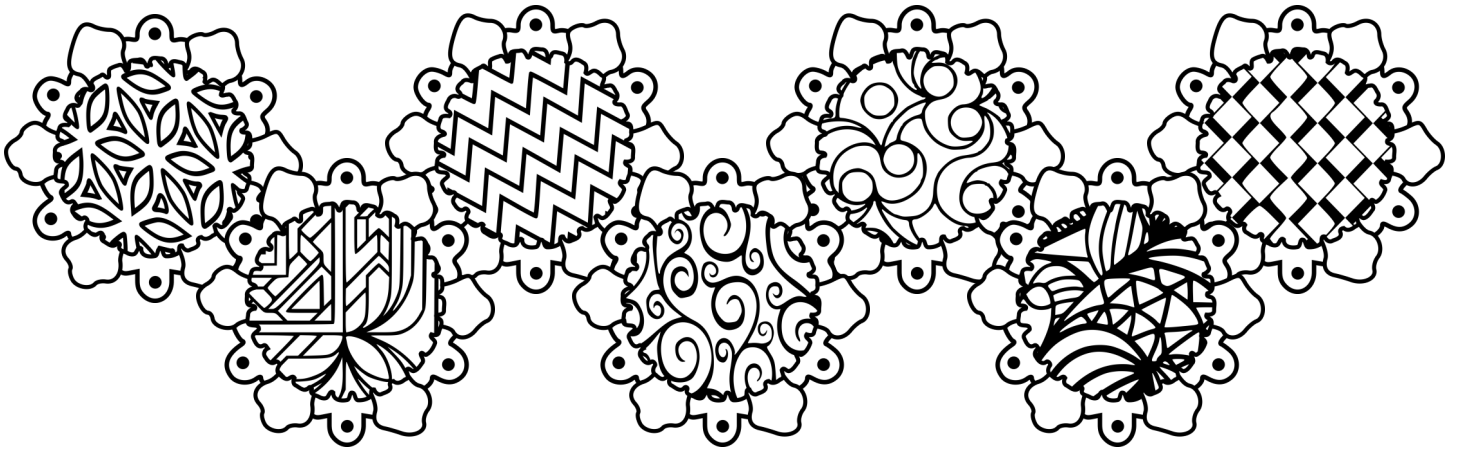
Striped candy canes did not become a normal occurrence until around 1900. At this time, they also were available with peppermint flavoring.

In the 1920s, Bob McCormack, a resident of Albany, Georgia, made candy canes to use as gifts at Christmas time. It was a very time-consuming job to make candy canes by hand, but that was the only way for many years. Finally, in the 1950s, Gregory Keller, a brother-in-law of Bob McCormack, invented a machine to make candy canes. Candy canes became a huge seller and are still popular today.

There are many traditions about how the candy cane represents Christian beliefs. Here are some of the common ones:

- The white color in the candy cane is said to represent Christ's purity because He was perfect and never sinned.
- The three thin stripes can represent the Trinity. The stripes may also represent the scourging of Jesus and the blood He shed when He died for us.
- The shape of the candy cane can represent the "J" in Jesus or a shepherd's staff, since Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- The fact that a candy cane is very hard can remind us that Christianity is built on the rock of Jesus' teaching and the firmness of God's promises.
- The peppermint flavor can represent the herb hyssop, which was used in the Old Testament, and reminds us of Jesus' purity and His sacrifice. The peppermint can also remind us of the spices given by the wise men when they visited the Christ child.

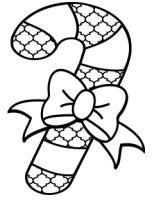






Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Multiple sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



Four horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

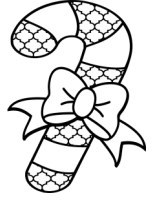
Multiple sets of horizontal lines for handwriting practice, each set consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.





Three horizontal lines for writing.

Twenty horizontal lines for writing.



Three horizontal lines for writing.

Twenty horizontal lines for writing.



## Christmas Ornaments



It is said that the first place where ornaments were put on a Christmas tree was Germany. The fir tree used as a Christmas tree at the time was said to have a triangular shape and be a symbol of the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The trees are said to have been decorated with plain white candles to show the light that came into the world when Jesus was born.



Tradition says that ornaments were supposedly used for the first time in the 1400s, and in 1510, a tree in Latvia was decorated with roses.



In 1605, a tree in Strasbourg is said to have been brought indoors and decorated with paper roses, candles, cookies, fruits, and nuts. Over time, families used their own ideas to make trees into beautiful creations of their own. In 1610, people began using tinsel, which was originally made from pure silver. Of course, this was only used by those who could afford it.



Over time, the tradition of decorating trees spread. In England, people used glass beads and snowflakes, which were made by hand, to decorate trees. By the 1800s, the tradition of decorating Christmas trees had spread to America. Earlier attempts to have Christmas trees in America were not widely accepted.



In the beginning of the 1800s, decorations were mainly fruits and nuts, which were things that normally grew on trees. As time went on, paper garlands and small pieces of metal foil were used. The foil reflected the light in the room at a time when trees did not have lights. In Germany, the idea of using foods such as gingerbread cookies began to be popular. These hard cookies could hold up for a time during the Christmas season and could be baked in many different forms, such as stars that represented the Star of Bethlehem, bells, hearts, and angels, representing the angels who told the shepherds the good news.

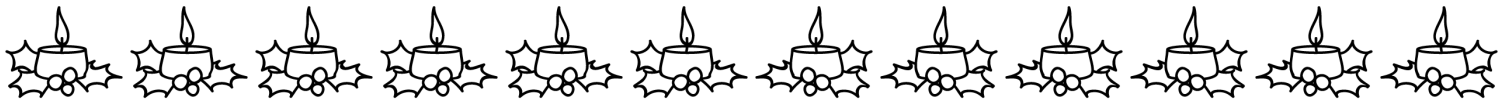


In the United States, it became popular to string cranberries or popcorn to make garlands for the tree. In England, it became popular to make lace or paper decorations. Over time, small gifts were sometimes put on trees, often in homemade containers.



Up until the 1880s, there were very few Christmas ornaments to be bought, as they were mostly homemade. There were some German hand-blown glass decorations available, but not many. About this time, the glass ornament business grew in Germany, especially in Lauscha. These ornaments became very





popular, and Germany dominated the Christmas ornament market for a very long time. In the United States, F.W. Woolworth, who was a well-known businessman and marketer, began importing glass ornaments from Germany to sell. They were extremely popular.



In Dresden, Germany, ornaments made of pressed and embossed paper were made and also became very popular. Thin foil strips, which we now know as icicles, also became popular.



In the early 1900s, Japan and Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) also began to make and distribute Christmas ornaments, which greatly cut into the German monopoly. During World War I, some people hesitated to buy things from Germany. After the war, business picked up again, but the threat of another war caused many businessmen to wonder how their businesses would fare if people stopped buying German ornaments again. Max Eckhardt set out to persuade the Corning Company of Corning, New York, to begin production of glass Christmas ornaments. In the late 1930s, he and a representative of F.W. Woolworth were able to convince the Corning Company to try, and the ornaments were a huge success. Mr. Eckhardt started the company "Shiny Brite," which became the biggest customer of the Corning Company's ornaments. Even with the scarcity of materials during World War II, the only major difference in the ornaments was replacing the metal cap on the ornaments with a cardboard one.

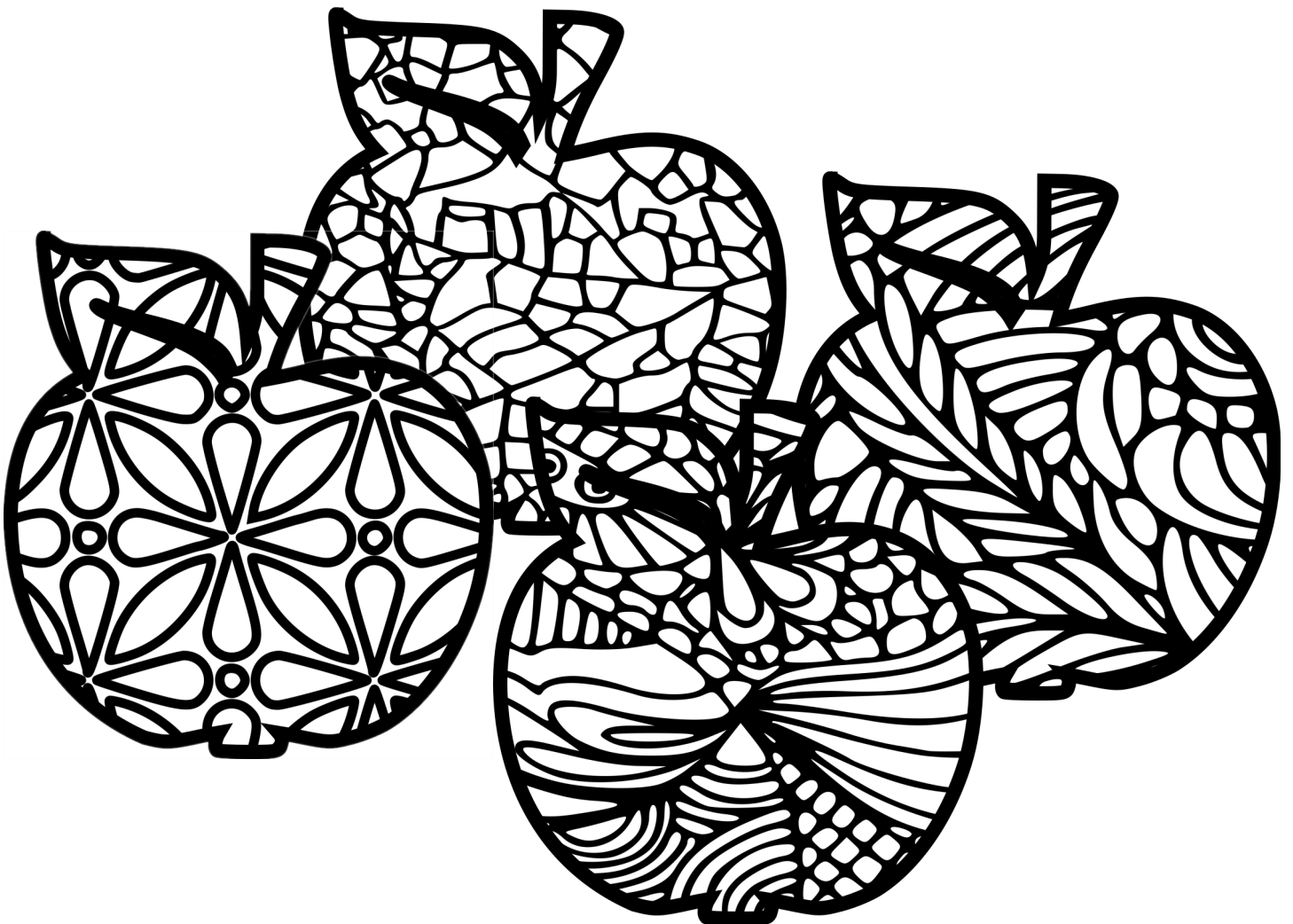
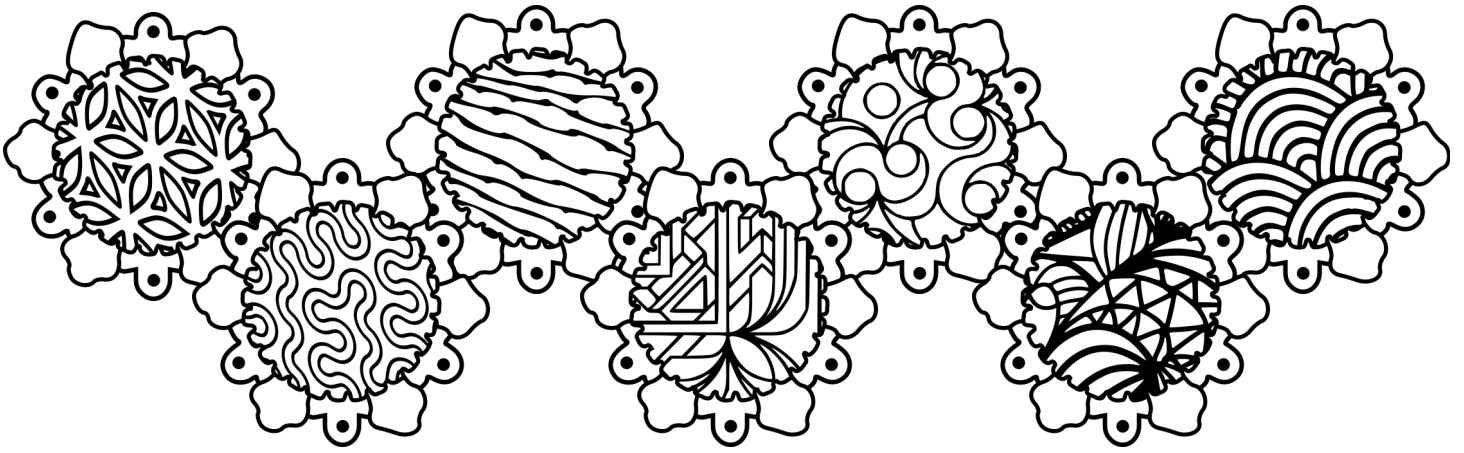


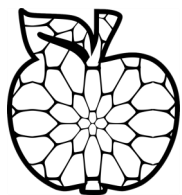
When World War II ended, many businesses became state-owned, and many of the glassworks in Lauscha, Germany, could no longer produce Christmas ornaments. When the Berlin Wall fell, some of the companies were able to reopen, but it was only a small percentage compared to the number who were in business before the war.



Christmas ornaments are still a popular part of the Christmas season, and we see them on trees and many other places as decorations today.



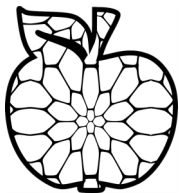




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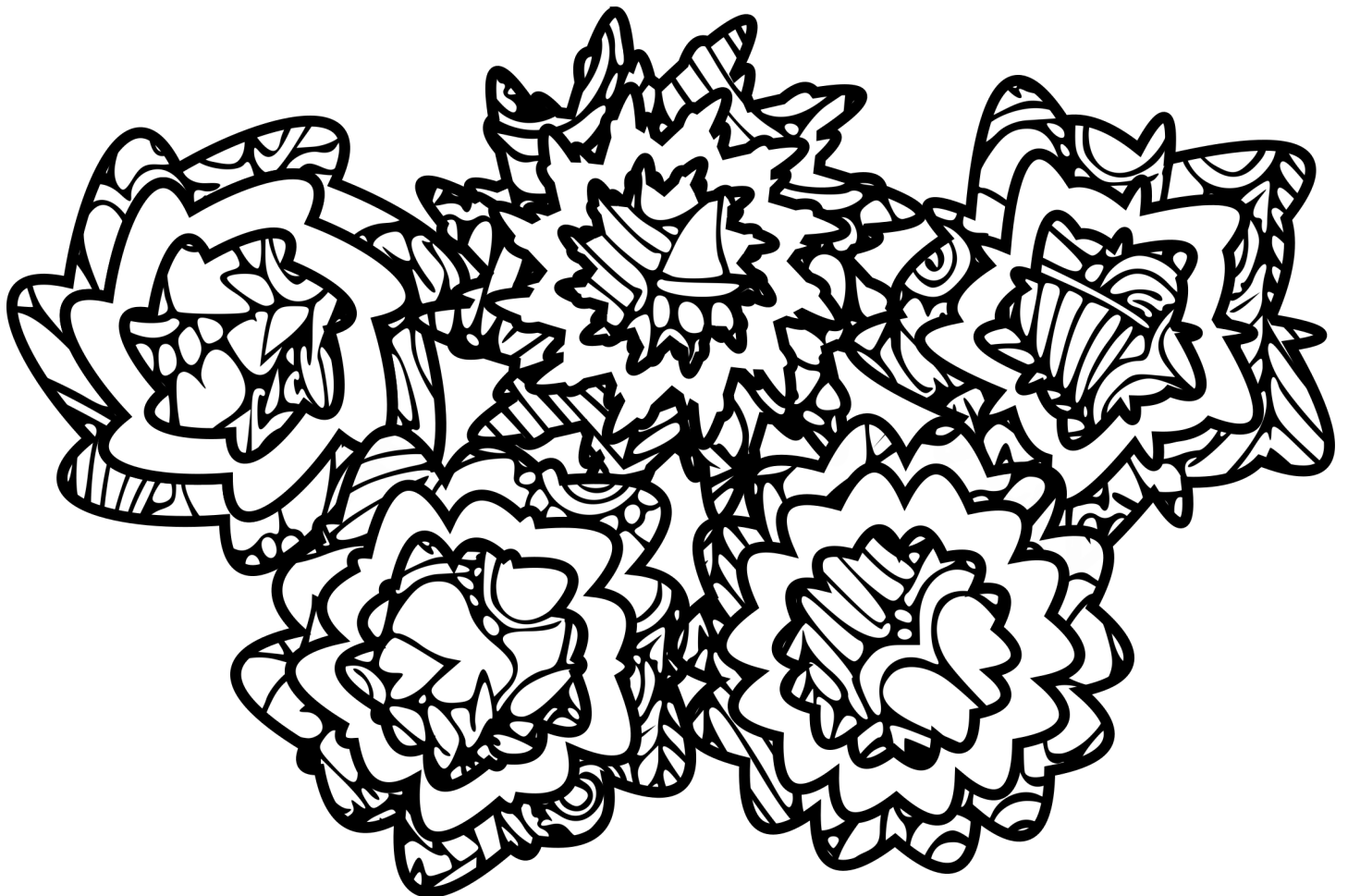
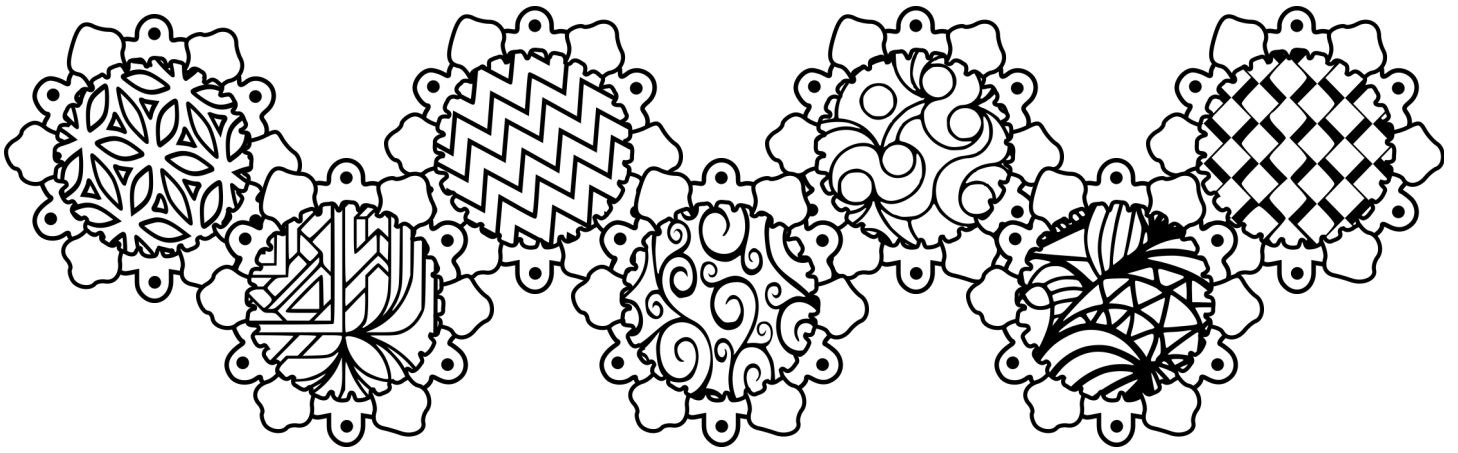
Multiple sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, filling the majority of the page.





Three horizontal lines for handwriting practice.

Twenty horizontal lines for handwriting practice.

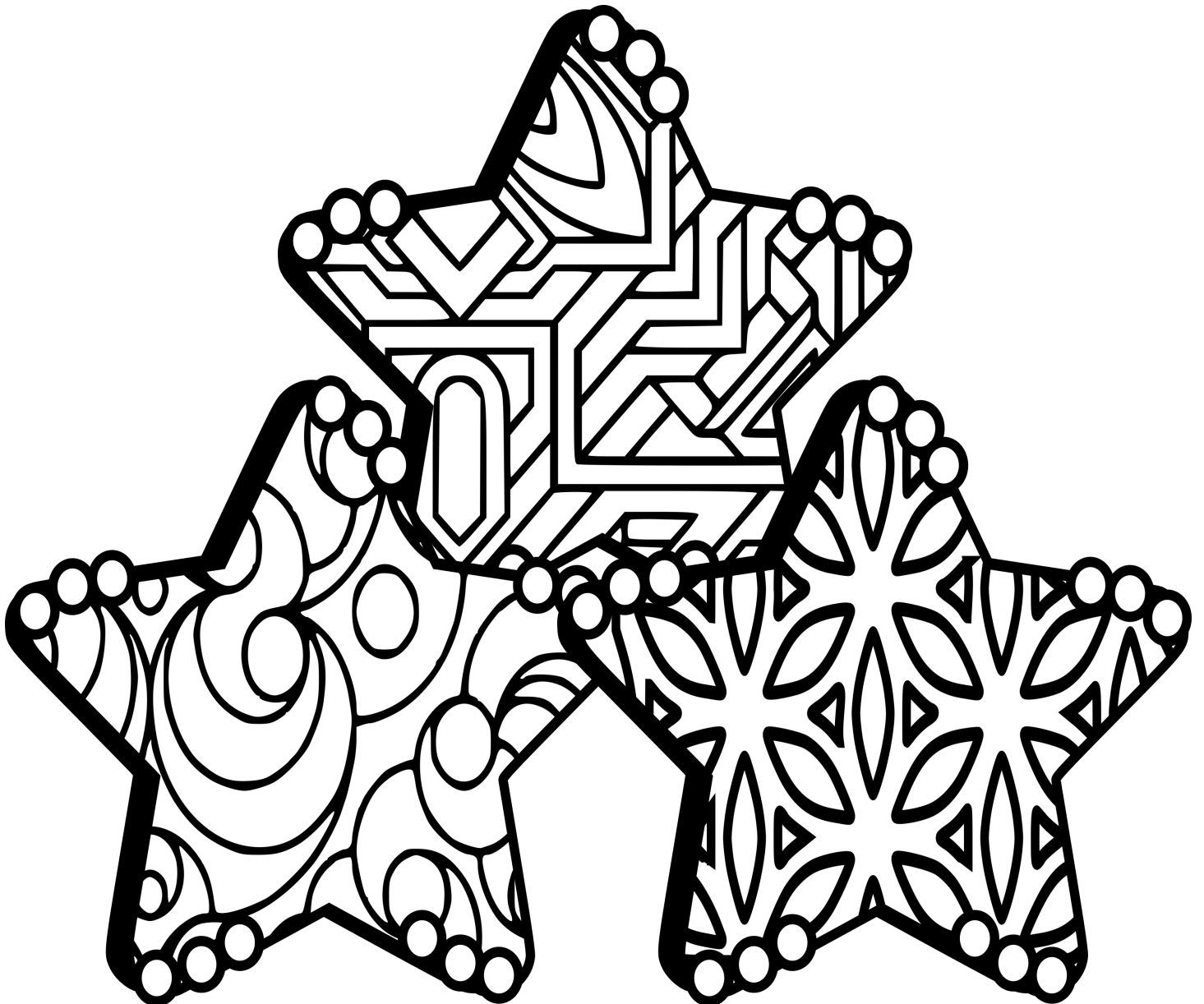
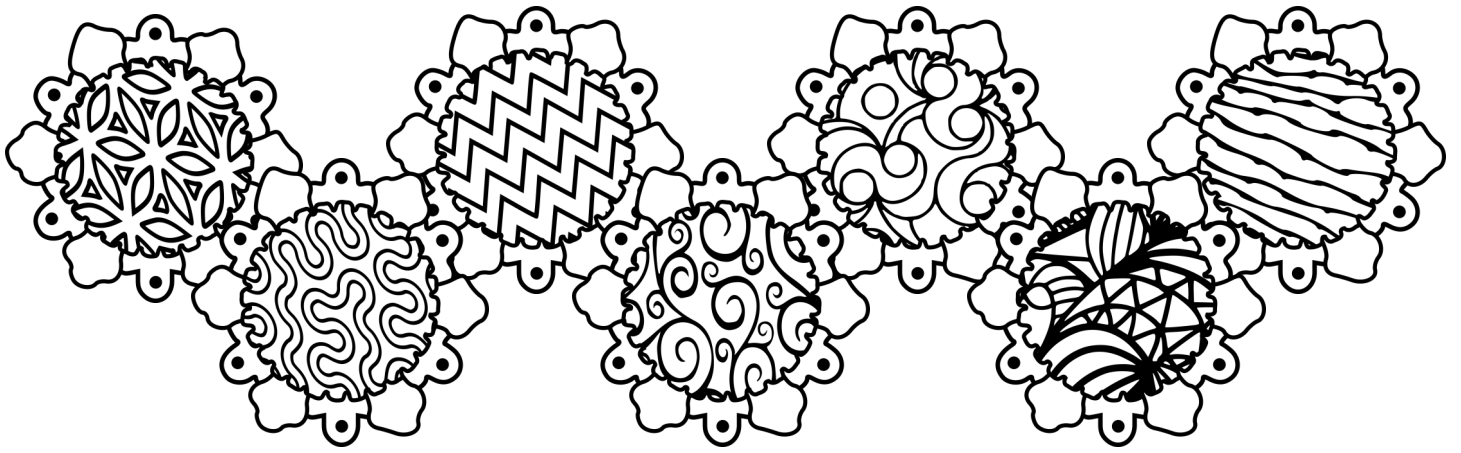




Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed midline, a solid baseline, and a solid descender line.

Multiple sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of four horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed midline, a solid baseline, and a solid descender line.

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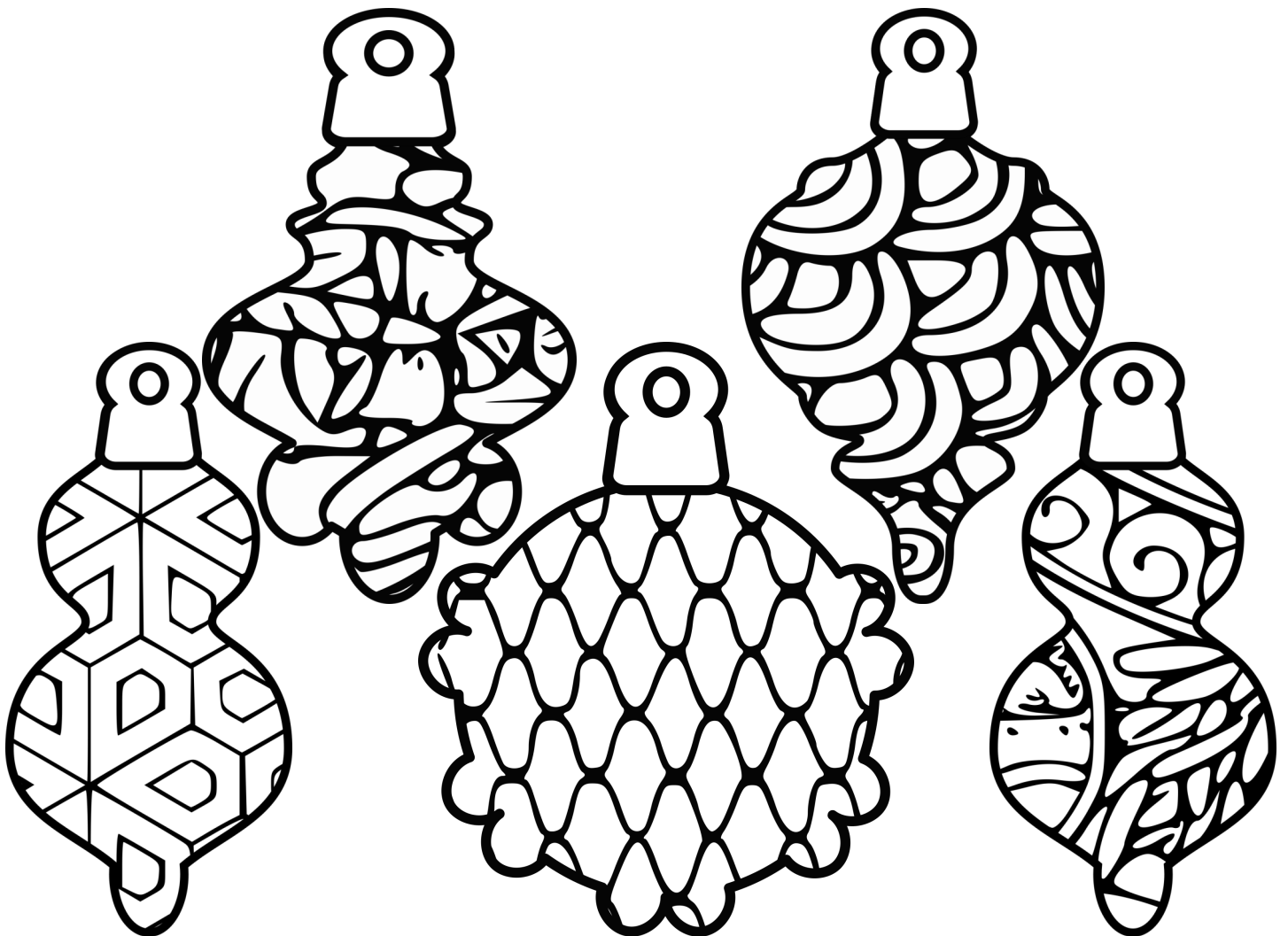
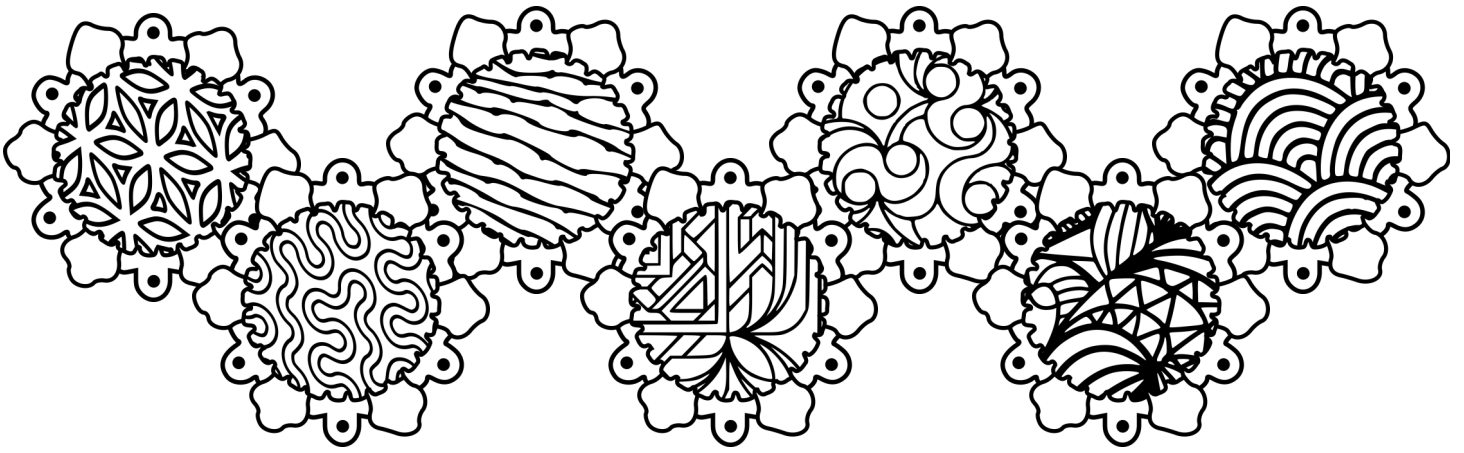


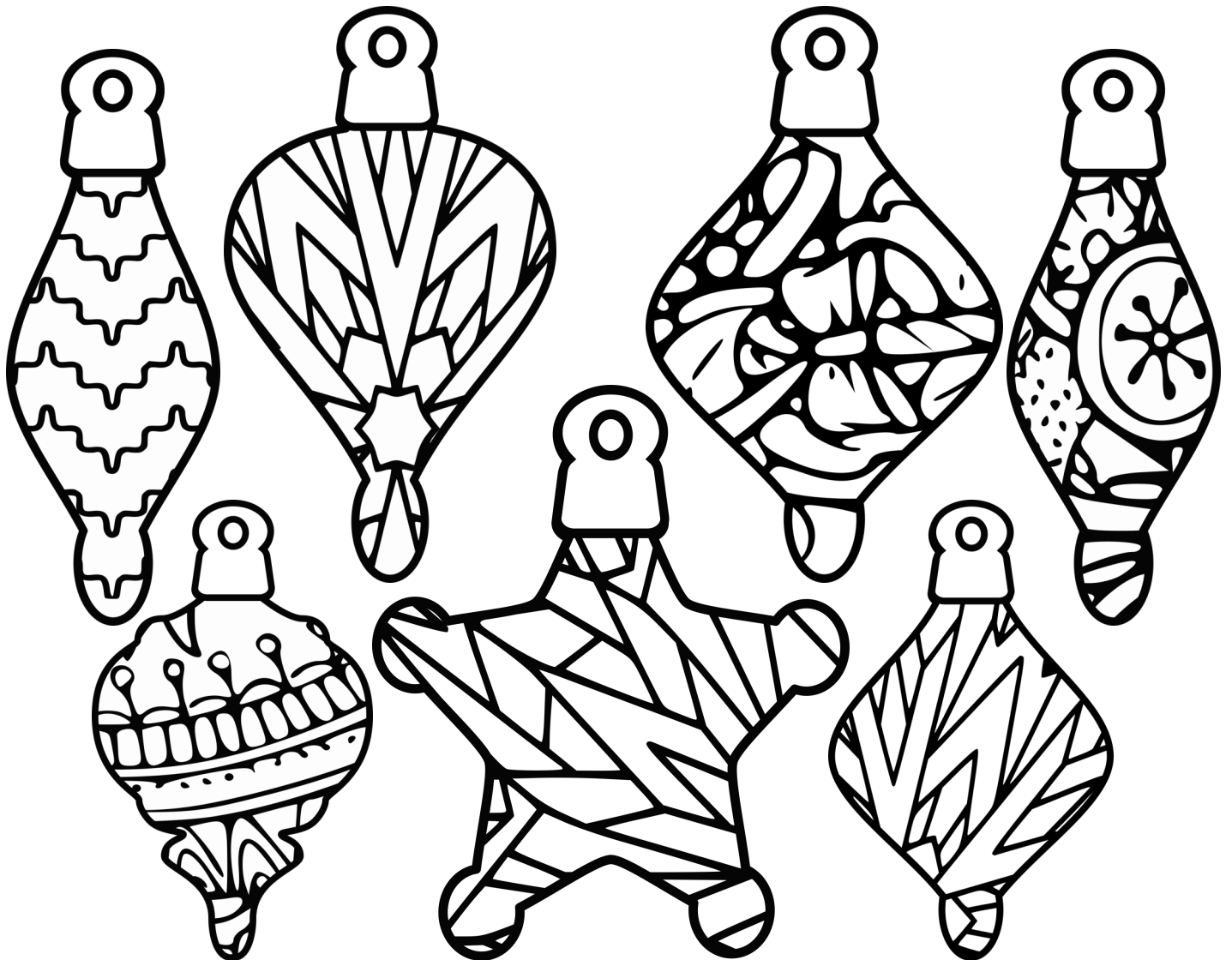
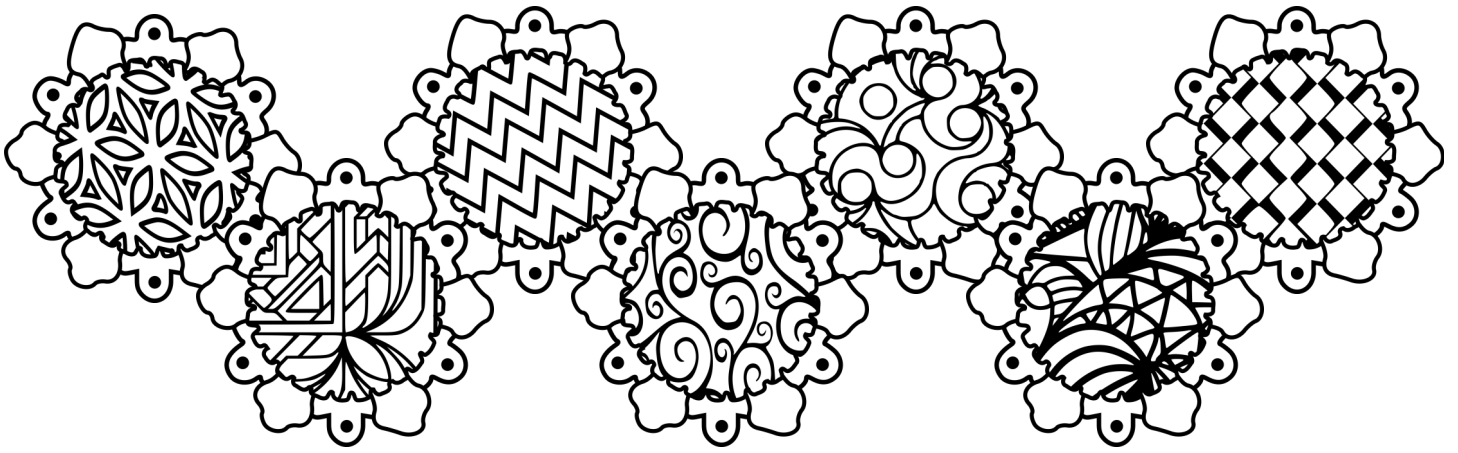
Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Multiple sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, for writing practice.



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Handwriting practice lines consisting of four horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed midline, a solid baseline, and a dashed descender line.

Multiple sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of four horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed midline, a solid baseline, and a dashed descender line.



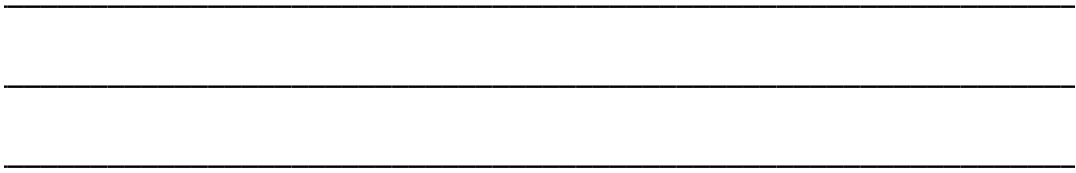
Four horizontal lines for handwriting practice, consisting of a solid top line, a dashed midline, a solid baseline, and a dashed descender line.

Multiple sets of horizontal lines for handwriting practice, each set consisting of a solid top line, a dashed midline, a solid baseline, and a dashed descender line.



Three horizontal lines for writing.

Twenty horizontal lines for writing.

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