

# Tet Blossom Trees



Tet Nguyen Dan is a Vietnamese multi-day celebration of the Lunar New Year. The date shifts from year to year but usually falls between the end of January and the middle of February. Families gather together to celebrate this important Vietnamese holiday and honor their ancestors (loved ones who have died). Tet gives people an opportunity to rid themselves of bad luck by cleaning their homes, paying their debts, and by being especially nice to others. Homes are decorated with blossom-filled branches of kumquat, peach, and ochna integerrima trees. The

white blossoms of kumquat trees symbolize coming wealth and luck in the new year; the pink peach tree blossoms represent love and joy; and the brilliant yellow blossoms of the ochna integerrima tree evoke folktales that tell of the noble roots of the Vietnamese. After Vietnamese families began to immigrate to Mississippi in the 1960s and 1970s, Tet became a familiar holiday in communities throughout the state, especially along the Coast where many Vietnamese settled and joined the fishing industry.

## Make a Tet Blossom Tree!

### Materials:

- Sheet of construction paper
- Brown marker, colored pencil or crayon
- Tissue paper (pink, white, or yellow)
- Glue

### Directions:

1. Draw a tree trunk and branches on the construction paper.
2. Place dots of glue on the branches. Tear off small bunches of tissue paper, scrunch into balls, and place on glue dots to create blossoms.

