

Make a pomander

This silver object is called a pomander and it is said to have belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots. It is shaped like an orange and it has segments that could be filled with sweet-smelling herbs and spices, such as cloves, cinnamon or lavender.

In the 1500s, flushing toilets had not been invented, so people threw their sewage out onto the streets of Edinburgh – and some people didn't take too many baths then either! To cover up these horrible smells, some ladies hung pomanders from a chain around their waist. If Mary encountered someone who was a bit pungent, she could smell her pomander instead!



Fun fact

The flushing toilet was invented in Edinburgh in 1775 by Alexander Cumming.

What you need

- An orange
- Ribbon
- Cloves
- A toothpick

Instructions

1. Tie your ribbon around your orange like a parcel and fasten it by tying a bow (ask for help if you need to).
2. Use your toothpick to make a pattern of holes in your orange.
3. Push your cloves into these holes.
4. Hang your pomander!

NOTE: Do not eat your orange or cloves.

