

# Handmade Candles

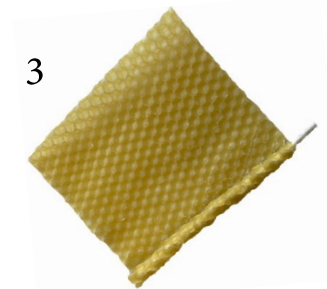
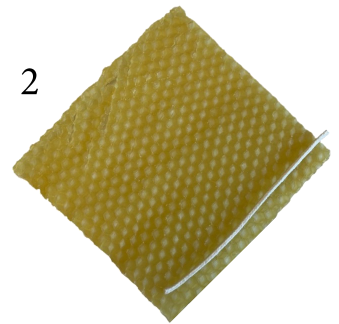
Before electricity or gas lighting, people used candles. Candles were often made with melted beeswax or tallow (rendered animal fat). To prevent any burns, we'll roll sheets of beeswax to make candles instead of using melted wax.

## What you will need:

- Sheet of beeswax, cut to size, easily found online
- Wick (string)

## Make your candle

1. Be sure the wax is at room temperature so it is easier to roll. If it feels cold, hold in your hands to warm the sheet.
2. Lay the wick near the edge of the sheet of beeswax.
3. Begin rolling. Carefully fold the edge of the beeswax over the wick. Keep rolling, being careful to roll evenly and tightly. If the wax starts to crack, use your fingers to press the wax back together.
4. To finish, press along the edge to seal the candle closed.



Note: Candles should only be lit under adult supervision. For best results, keep wick trimmed to 1/4" and light candle at the base of the wick, allowing some wax to pool.

## Candles in 18th-century Alexandria



While some people made candles at home, it was easier to buy candles in one of Alexandria's many stores. The newspaper advertised two kinds of candles for sale—"mould" and "dipped."

To make dipped candles, a person dipped the wick into a pot of melted tallow over and over again. Molded candles were made by pouring melted tallow or wax into candle molds like the one to the left.

