

Teachers! Get your students involved in

Christmas Customs Around the World



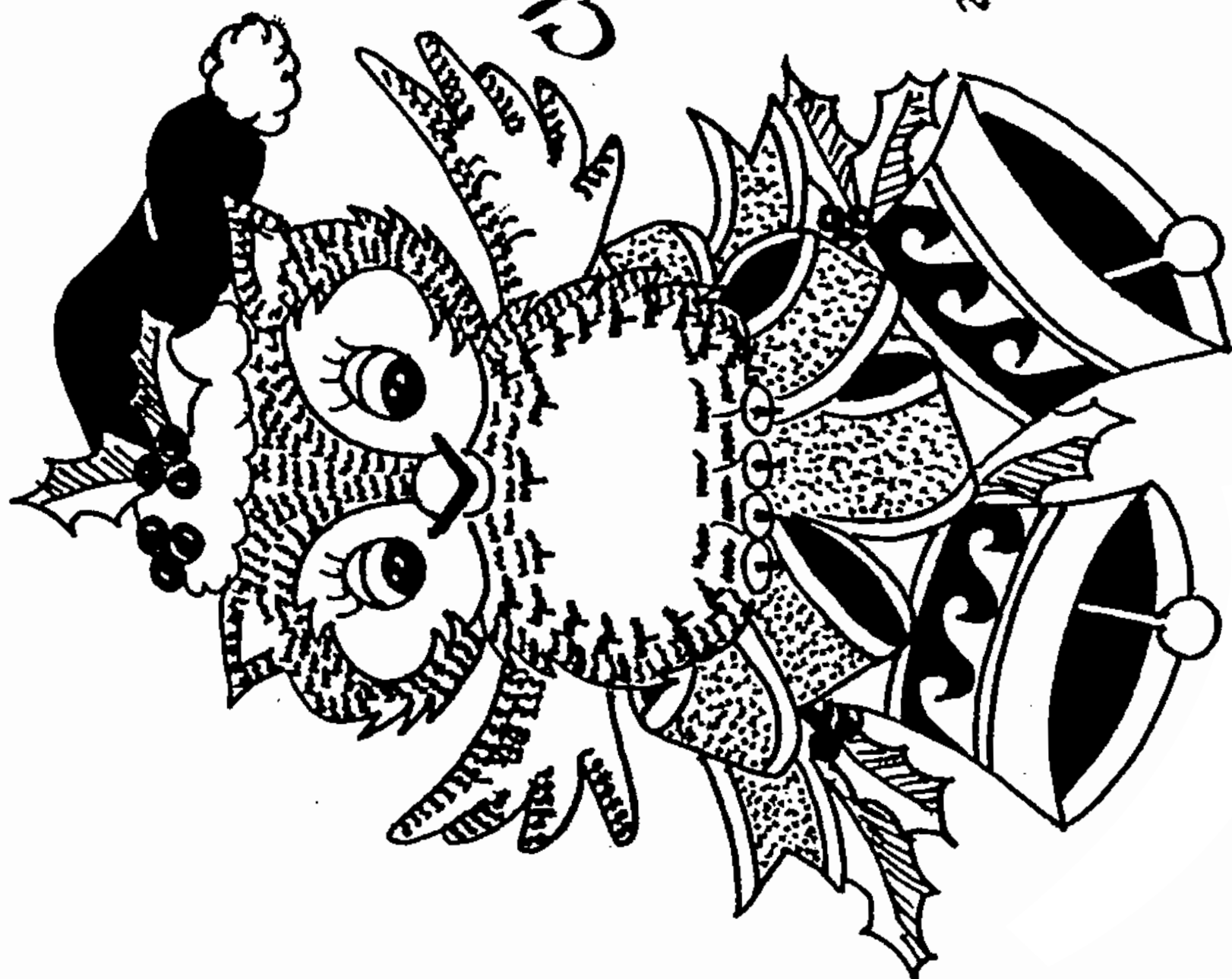
1. The season of Advent is observed as the twenty-four days beginning December 1. Get involved in this German custom and countdown the days til Christmas using an Advent calendar.

2. Celebrate the Netherland's St. Nicholas Day on December 6. Have a group of students explain the day to a primary class and have them leave their shoes outside the classroom with carrots. St. Nicholas just might leave some candies in their shoes!

3. December 13 is Lucia's Day in Sweden. Have some students make St. Lucia crowns for themselves and serve snacks to the class following a presentation of Christmas customs in Sweden.

4. Enjoy the Mexican custom of making a pinata and breaking it on December 16. Explain the significance of the nine nights of 'posadas.'

5. Animals should be included in Christmas rejoicing. Plan a Scandinavian dinner to be hung on a tree for the animals.



Santa's Hideaway "The North Pole"

No one has ever seen Santa's village at the North Pole. What would it look like from the air?

Draw an imaginary community map of Santa's hideaway. Neatly label each building and object on the map.

- Include:
- Santa's House
 - Elves' Workshop
 - Reindeer stable
 - Elves' living quarters
 - Landing strip for sleighs
 - Warehouses
 - Garage for sleighs

What else might you find in the community?



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The Christmas Story

Turn to LUKE 2:1-20 in a bible and read the story of the "First Christmas". Rewrite the story using your own words.



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Christmas Survey

Survey your parents and grandparents to find out how Christmas has changed over the years since they were children. Make up some good questions over the focus on the following:

- toys
- food
- customs

Write up a report based on your survey.

A Pioneer Christmas Survey

Research how Christmas was celebrated over one hundred years ago.

1. What was their Christmas like?
2. Would you like to spend a Christmas the way the pioneers did? Give your reasons!
3. Describe how you think Christmas will be changed a hundred years from now.

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REINDEER RESEARCH

There's more to reindeer than just being the power driving Santa's sleigh. Do some research on reindeer and try answering the following questions.

1. Although reindeer are relatives of the Canadian caribou, how are they different from any other type of deer?
2. Where are reindeer found?
3. What people make good use of reindeer?
4. What uses are the reindeer to these people? (Name four.)

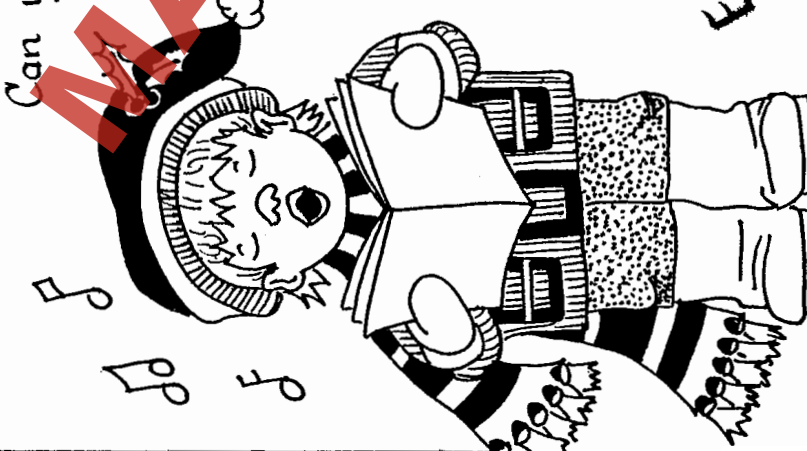
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Christmas Greetings, Many Ways

Can you match the Christmas greeting with the country where it is spoken?

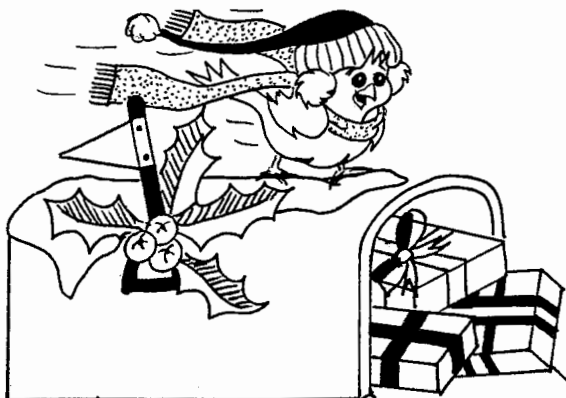


1. Sheng Tan Kuai Loh
2. Joyeux Noel
3. Feliz Navidad
4. Gledelig Jul
5. Froehliche Weihnachten
6. Buon Natale
7. Nadellig Javert
8. Hristos Kazafetsja
9. Happy Christmas
10. Nodlaig mhaith chugat

FRANCE
WALES
ITALY
MEXICO
ENGLAND
CHINA
IRELAND
RUSSIA
DENMARK
GERMANY

ΕΧΤΙΣΜΕΝΑ
Χριστουγεννα
GREECE

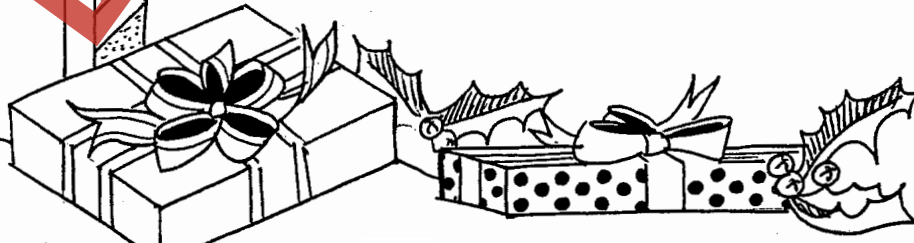
A Letter to Santa



Work with a Partner

Pretend you are a small child writing a letter to Santa Claus.

1. Write a letter telling Santa how you have behaved this year and telling him what you would like for Christmas.
2. Have your partner become Santa Claus and write a letter back to you.



Haiku

Haiku poems are only three lines long. Each line has a special number of syllables.

line 1 _____ 5 syllables
line 2 _____ 7 syllables
line 3 _____ 5 syllables

Example:
Hustling through the streets
The angry crowds of shoppers
Hurry to get home

Write a three line haiku poem about Christmas.

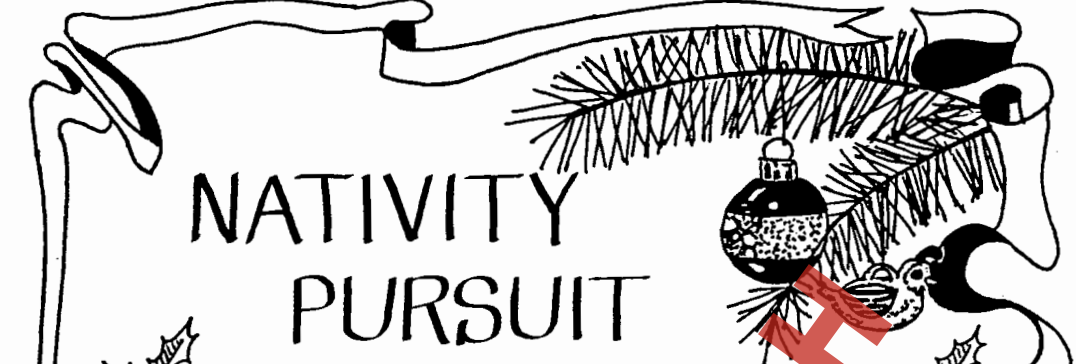
Acrostic Poetry

An acrostic poem is one where the first letter of a word is used as the first letter for one line of the poem.

e.g. Shining brightly from afar
Twinkling in the manger
Above the sleeping babe
Resting in the manger
A poem using a Christmas symbol of your choice.

Make up a poem using a Christmas symbol of your choice.

NATIVITY PURSUIT



I	M	Y	R	R	H	A	E	I	O	M	C	I	A	H	O	A	M	I	C	A	I	J	E
B	A	F	O	D	I	U	B	Z	E	I	O	E	M	S	U	S	E	J	O	U	C	E	I
E	H	A	K	T	O	I	N	H	U	W	N	T	Q	H	P	E	U	M	A	R	Y	R	F
O	C	G	O	D	H	A	E	O	E	N	R	I	A	E	N	E	S	A	O	I	O	U	O
L	A	B	E	D	J	L	M	R	I	O	N	I	Y	P	L	G	F	D	K	E	I	S	I
H	N	I	U	T	H	L	E	B	P	G	A	B	E	N	O	W	L	U	W	A	H	A	D
E	I	D	U	T	O	E	S	A	B	O	W	S	H	E	E	I	O	Q	I	O	U	L	E
A	O	A	E	O	H	B	L	D	G	A	O	P	R	S	Z	C	F	S	I	C	E	O	
V	M	B	U	B	A	B	E	W	N	J	O	V	O	D	F	J	K	Y	E	V	B	M	O
E	N	B	I	D	O	G	I	O	I	M	A	O	H	A	C	O	I	M	K	N	L	E	
N	A	U	O	D	L	A	R	E	L	O	I	J	L	I	O	Y	U	E	E	W	O	G	S
D	I	O	O	P	F	I	B	C	D	S	T	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	M	T	H	I
I	O	R	A	G	I	K	A	N	D	O	A	E	U	M	I	O	H	A	L	O	E	F	A
C	E	J	I	O	A	R	G	A	P	B	G	O	L	D	E	N	B	G	E	R	H	E	
H	K	U	H	E	B	C	M	U	W	E	I	E	C	V	A	O	I	E	P	P	O	I	C
O	A	M	A	N	G	E	R	O	S	I	A	E	S	N	E	C	N	I	K	N	A	R	F

Search for words associated with the First Christmas.

God	Shepherd	heaven
Bethlehem	Nazareth	babe
Gabriel	manger	Jerusalem
Jesus	inn	Herod
Mary	flock	gold
Joseph	sheep	frankincense
Wisemen	swaddling	myrrh

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



ACTIVITY PURSUIT

Search for words associated with first Christmas.

Shepherd	heaven
Nazareth	babe
manger	Jerusalem
inn	Herod
flock	gold
sheep	Frankincense
swaddling	myrrh

ANSWERS

What Kind of Christmas Tree Do You Get?

Using a book on trees, try to match the type of evergreen with the needle type.

1. WHITE PINE	2. RED PINE
3. LARCH	4. SPRUCE
5. HEMLOCK	6. FIR

Needles to a bundle
- these needles fall off in the fall

many needles to a bundle
- needles have four sides (square)

flat needles on stalks
- flat needles (not on a stalk)

Fir, Spruce, White Pine, Larch, Hemlock, Red Pine

Christmas Greetings, Many Ways

Can you match the Christmas greeting with the country where it is spoken?

1. Sheng Tan Kuai Loh	2. FRANCE
2. Joyeux Noel	3. WALES
3. Feliz Navidad	4. ITALY
4. Glaeddig Jul	5. MEXICO
5. Froehliche Weihnachten	6. ENGLAND
6. Buon Natale	7. CHINA
7. Nadolig Llawn	8. IRELAND
8. Aristos Razdajetsja	9. RUSSIA
9. Happy Christmas	10. DENMARK
10. Nodlaig mhaith chugnat	11. GERMANY



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY

Vanishing Vowels

Add vowels to the consonants below to make Christmas words appear. The first one is done for you.

1. SLGH	SLEIGH	10. PRSNT	PRESENT
2. RNDR	REINDEER	11. MMRS	MEMORIES
3. HLDY	HOLIDAY	12. CHMN	CHIMNEY
4. SHPHRD	SHEPHERD	13. PNSTT	POINSETTIA
5. MNGR	MANGER	14. WRTH	WREATH
6. FRNKNCNS	FRANKINCENSE	15. DCRTN	DECORATION
7. PC	PEACE	16. FRPLC	FIREPLACE
8. MSTLT	MISTLETOE	17. STCKNG	STOCKING
9. BRRS	BERRIES	18. BTHLM	BETHLEHEM

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