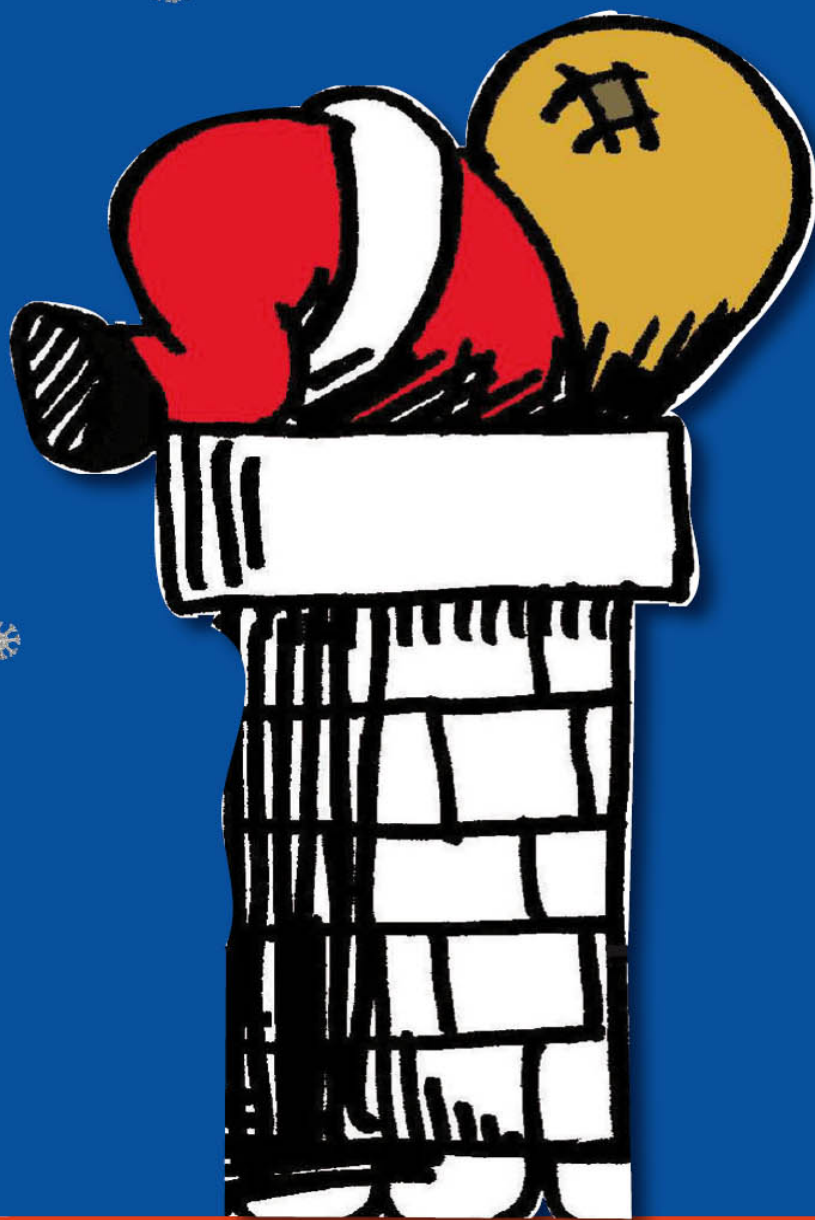


Christmas Activities

Arbeitsblätter, Lieder, Reime, Spiele, Kopiervorlagen und Bastelvorschläge



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Handbuch „Christmas Activities“

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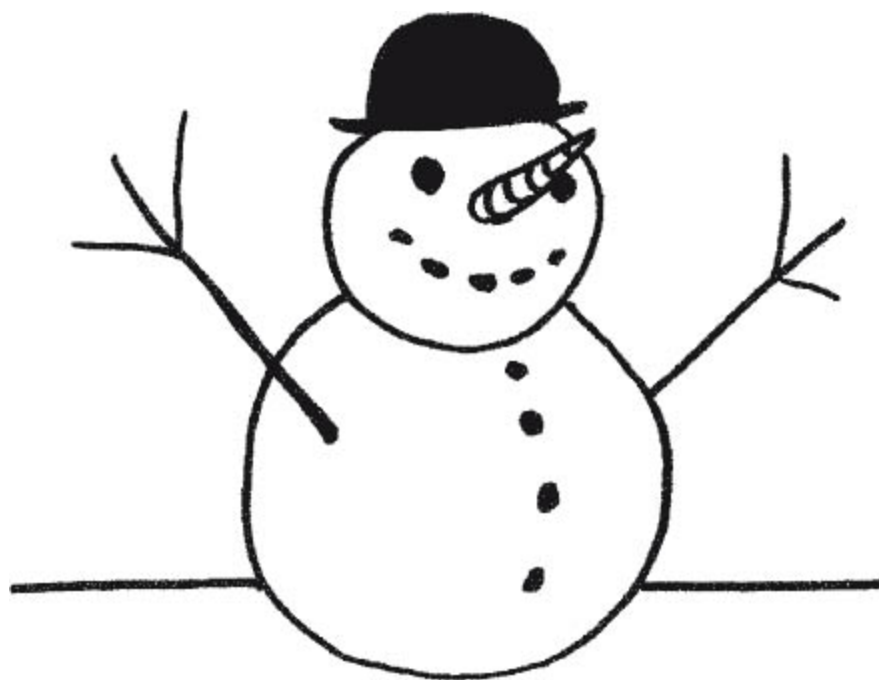
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Christmas around the World

Christmas in Great Britain

In English speaking countries, children get their presents on the 25th of December. Santa comes at night when everyone is asleep. Santa's reindeer can fly and take him from house to house. They land on the roofs of the houses and then Santa climbs down the chimney to leave the presents under the Christmas tree.

Children write their letters to Father Christmas and then throw them into the fireplace so they will float up the chimney and fly to the North Pole. If the lists catch fire first, they have to rewrite them.

In the morning of Christmas Day (25th December), children usually get up very early to unwrap their presents. Then they have plenty of time to play with their new toys. The houses are decorated with balloons, ribbons, flowers and green plants as well as Christmas trees. The tradition of hanging mistletoe began in Britain. People love sending and receiving Christmas cards. They put their cards on the mantelpiece.

English people love their Christmas carols. Carols are sung enthusiastically in churches before Christmas and carol concerts are very popular. Children walk from door to door and sing their songs.

Christmas dinner is served in the early afternoon. The traditional Christmas dinner is roast turkey with vegetables and sauces. For dessert it is rich, fruity Christmas pudding

with brandy sauce. Mince pies, pastry cases filled with a mixture of chopped dried fruit. The traditional plum pudding is served with little treasures hidden inside it and people who find it are considered lucky for the whole year.

Attending a Pantomime is also a special Christmas treat for both adults and children. Pantomimes are performances based on traditional folk and fairy tales, such as Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella or Dick Whittington. Normally starring a well-known television personality, they are a lively mix of song, dance and slapstick in which a man plays the dame and a girl takes the part of the 'Principal Boy'. A mixed up world in which good always overcomes evil and everyone lives happily ever after.

26th of December is called Boxing Day.

There are disparate theories as to the origins of the term. The more common stories include:

It was the day when people would give a present or Christmas box to those who had worked for them throughout the year. This is still done in Britain for postmen and paper-boys - though now the 'box' is usually given before Christmas, not after.

In feudal times, Christmas was a reason for a gathering of extended families. All the serfs would gather their families in the manor of their lord, which made it easier for the lord of the estate to hand out annual stipends to the serfs. After all the Christmas parties on 26 December, the lord of the estate would give practical goods such as cloth, grains, and tools to the serfs who lived on his land. Each family would get a box full of such goods the day after Christmas. Under this explanation, there was nothing voluntary about this transaction; the lord of the manor was obliged to supply these goods. Because of the boxes being given out, the day was called Boxing Day.

In England many years ago, it was common practice for the servants to carry boxes to their employers when they arrived for their day's work on the day after Christmas. Their employers would then put coins in the boxes as special end-of-year gifts. This can be compared with the modern day concept of Christmas bonuses. The servants carried boxes for the coins, hence the name Boxing Day.

In churches, it was traditional to open the church's donation box on Christmas Day, and the money in the donation box was to be distributed to the poorer or lower class citizens on the next day. In this case, the "box" in "Boxing Day" comes from that lockbox in which the donations were left. (Source: Wikipedia)

Christmas in America

Christmas celebrations vary greatly between regions of the United States, because of the variety of nationalities which have settled in it.

In Alaska, a star on a pole is taken from door to door, followed by Herod's Men, who try to capture the star. Colonial doorways are often decorated with pineapple, a symbol of hospitality. Boys and girls with lanterns on poles carry a large figure of a star from door to door. They sing carols and are invited in for supper.

In Washington D.C., a huge, spectacular tree is lit ceremoniously when the President presses a button and turns on the tree's lights.

In Boston, carol singing festivities are famous. The singers are accompanied by hand bells.

In New Orleans, a huge ox is paraded around the streets decorated with holly and with ribbons tied to its horns.

In Arizona, the Mexican ritual called **Las Posadas** is kept up. This is a ritual procession and play representing the search of Mary and Joseph for a room at the inn. Families play the parts and visit each other's houses enacting and reenacting the drama and, at the same time, having a look at each family's crib.

In Hawaii, Christmas starts with the coming of the Christmas Tree Ship, which is a ship bringing a great load of Christmas fare. Santa Claus also arrives by boat.

In California, Santa Claus sweeps in on a surf board.

American homes are decorated with holly, mistletoe and branches of trees, most have a Christmas tree hung with electric lights, tinsel, baubles, and strings of popcorn and candy canes.

Christmas in Ireland

In Ireland, children often put out Christmas sacks instead of stockings.

It is tradition to leave mince pies and a bottle of Guinness out as a snack for Santa.

Christmas in New Zealand

New Zealand is on the southern hemisphere. Our winter is their summer, so New Zealanders celebrate Christmas in the warm summer sun. Many flowers and trees are in bloom at this time of the year, for example the Pohutukawa. The Pohutukawa tree grows on the North Island, mainly in coastal areas and has lovely red blossoms. Therefore New Zealanders call the Pohutukawa their Christmas tree.

As it is usually quite warm on Christmas Day, New Zealanders can eat their Christmas dinner outside. Many

people have a picnic or a barbecue. And some people even have a traditional Maori hangi: they dig a hole in the ground and heat it with hot stones. Then they put meat and vegetables into this hole, cover the hole and let the food cook inside. The hangi is served in the afternoon or evening; after the delicious meal, people often sit around and sing Christmas carols. Some New Zealanders can't get enough of Christmas-they celebrate it twice each year: on 25 December and in July, which is mid-winter in New Zealand. So if you go to New Zealand in July, you may find hotels and restaurants fully decorated for Christmas.

Christmas in Argentina

The people go to the church with their family and come back to a family gathering. At midnight after eating they toast, then the adults' dance while younger people go out to see the fireworks. Just before going to sleep they open the presents under the Christmas tree. That day is very special for them because they are Christians and celebrate Jesus' birth on the 24th of December. The dinner food is pork, turkey, and a great variety of meals. The table is covered with sweet things, cider, beer, and juice for consuming while waiting for the time of the toast. After the toast the family is chatting, others are playing.

Christmas Russia

In the days of the Soviet Union, Christmas was not celebrated very much. New Year was the important time - when 'Father Frost' brought presents to children. With the fall of Communism, Christmas can be openly celebrated - either on December 25th; or more often on January 7th. This unusual date is because the Russian Orthodox church uses the old 'Julian' calendar for religious celebration days.

Special Christmas food includes cakes, pies and 'meat dumplings'.

Christmas in Norway

In Norway, on Christmas Eve, a bowl of porridge, "nisse" is left in the barn for the gnome who protects the farm.

When the children first see their Christmas tree all decorated, with presents underneath, the family joins hands and circles the tree singing carols.

Christmas in South Africa

In South Africa, Christmas comes in the middle of the summer. After a large Christmas lunch, families visit the homes of friends to ask for and receive a "Christmas box" which usually has food inside.

Christmas in Spain

In Spain, Papa Noel delivers his presents by climbing up the balconies.

On January 6th, the three wise men come to visit and also leave presents for the children.

Christmas in France

In France, young children leave their shoes by the fire on Christmas Eve for a gift from "le père Noël" while the older children and adults go to church at midnight and then return home for a late supper called "le réveillon".

Christmas puppet shows are very popular in France, mainly in Paris and in Lyon.

Christmas in Italy

In Italy, on the evening of the day after Christmas, children are visited by a good witch named Strega Buffana. She flies around Italy on a broom and leaves treats for good children and coal for naughty children.

It is tradition to give a bag of dried lentils to your good friends to make lentil soup. This is a peasant soup and reminds them of their humble beginnings and is eaten to bring good luck and prosperity in the New Year.

How to say 'Merry Christmas'

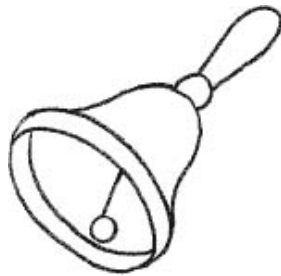
Afrikaans	Gesëende Kersfees
African	Rehus-Beal-Ledeats
Arabic	Milad Majid
Brazilian	Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo
Chinese (Cantonese)	Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun
Chinese (Mandarin)	Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan
Danish	Glædelig Jul
Dutch	Zalig Kerstfeest
Eskimo	Jutdlime pivdluarit ukiortame pivdluaritlo
Finnish	Hyvaa joulua
French	Joyeux Noel
Greek	Kala Christouyenna
Hawaiian	Mele Kalikimaka
Hebrew	Mo'adim Lesimkha. Chena tova
Hindi	Shub Naya Baras
Italian	Buone Feste Natalizie
Japanese	Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto
Latin	Natale hilare et Annum Faustum
Polish	Boze Narodzenie
Russian	Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom
Spanish	Feliz Navidad
Swedish	God Jul

Turkish

Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun



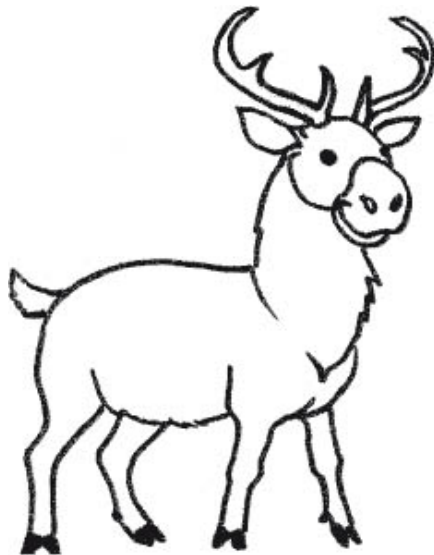
Christmas Songs



Ring-a-ling-a-ling (Tune: "If You 're Happy and You Know It")

If it's Christmas and you know it, ring a bell,
If it's Christmas and you know it, ring a bell,
If it's Christmas and you know it,
Then your face will surely show it!
If it's Christmas and you know it, ring a bell!

**Sing additional verses with "trim a tree", "wrap a gift", and say "Ho! Ho! Ho!"*



Reindeer Pokey (Tune: "The Hokey Pokey")

You put your antlers in. You put your antlers out.
You put you antlers in and you shake them all about.
You do the Reindeer Pokey and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about!

You put your hooves in....

You put your red nose in....

You put your fluffy tail in...

You put your reindeer body in...



Dance like Snowflakes (Tune: "Frere Jacques")

Dance like snowflakes,
Dance like snowflakes,
In the air.
In the air.
Whirling, twirling, snowflakes,
Whirling, twirling, snowflakes,
Here and there.
Here and there.

Where is Santa? (Tune: Are you sleeping?)

Where is Santa?

Where is Santa?

(hands behind back)

Here I am!

Here I am!

(arms out in front making a belly shape!)

Merry, Merry Christmas!

Merry, Merry, Christmas!

(keep arms up through the rest of the song!)

Ho! Ho! Ho!,

Ho! Ho! Ho!



Here's a little Candle (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot")

Here's a little candle dressed in white,

Wearing a hat of yellow light.

When the night is dark, then you will see

Just how bright this light can be.

Here's a little candle straight and tall,

Shining it's light upon us all.

When the night is dark, then you will see

Just how bright this light can be.

Here's a little candle burning bright.
Keeping us safe all through the night.
When the night is dark, then you will see
Just how bright this light can be!

Let's all do a little Clapping (Tune: "We wish You A Merry Christmas")

Let's all do a little clapping,
Let's all do a little clapping,
Let's all do a little clapping
And spread Christmas cheer.

** You can change the clapping to other activities (Jumping, twirling, stretching, bending)
Ask the kids for other ideas.*



This is Christmas (Tune; "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star")

What is Christmas? We'll tell you.
It's putting love in all we do;
In our work, and in our play.
In our living every day.
It is showing love for others,
Father, Mother, Sisters, Brothers.



Old St. Nicholas (Tune: "Old McDonald had a farm")

Old St. Nicholas had a tree *(form tree with arms)*

Ho, ho ho ho ho!

And on that tree he had some horns *(blow horns)*

Ho ho ho ho ho

With a toot toot here and a toot toot there

Here a toot There a toot

Everywhere a toot toot

Old St. Nicholas had a tree *(form tree with arms)*

Ho, ho ho ho ho!

continue....

lights

candy canes

drums

bells

birds

stars

snowflakes

flash flash

yum-yum

boom-boom

ring ring

peep peep

twinkle twinkle

flutter flutter

** this is a good song to use on a flannel board*



Santa Claus (Tune: "London Bridge")

See him walking all around,
All around, all around.
See him walking all around,
Jolly Sancta Claus
Hear the ho, ho, ho, ho, ho,
Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho,
Hear the ho, ho, ho, ho, ho,
Jolly Santo Claus.



I'm A Little Pine Tree (Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little pine tree- as you can see,
All the other pine trees are bigger than me.
Maybe when I grow up-then I'll be
A great big merry Christmas tree!



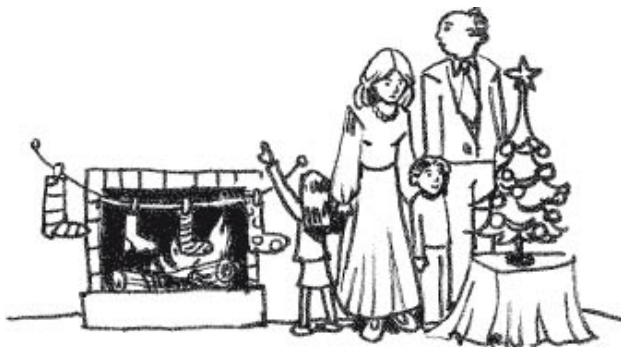
Christmas Bells (Tune: "The Muffin Man")

Oh, do you hear the Christmas bells,
The Christmas bells, the Christmas bells?
Oh, do you hear the Christmas bells
That ring out loud & clear?

Oh, can you see our Christmas tree,
Our Christmas tree, our Christmas tree?
Oh, can you see our Christmas tree?
It fills the room with cheer.

Oh, do you smell the gingerbread,

The gingerbread, the gingerbread?
Oh, do you smell the gingerbread?
I'm glad Christmas is here.



Christmas time is here (Tune: "Farmer in the Dell")

Christmas time is near.
Christmas time is near.
Merry Christmas everyone.
Christmas time is near.

It's time to trim the tree.
It's time to trim the tree.
Merry Christmas everyone.
It's time to trim the tree.

It's time to wrap the gifts.
It's time to wrap the gifts.
Merry Christmas everyone.
It's time to wrap the gifts.

It's time to hang the stocking.
It's time to hang the stocking.
Merry Christmas everyone.
It's time to hang the stocking.

Santa will soon be here.
Santa will soon be here.