

WINTER - Do you like winter? Why, or why not? What is your favorite season?

We say:

Now	Often
It's snowing .	It's snowy.
It's raining.	It's rainy.
It's sunny.	It's sunny.
It's cloudy.	It's cloudy.
It's windy.	It's windy.

A piece of snow is called a **snowflake**. Snowflakes all have 6 points, but they can have about 110 different basic shapes. Do you know why?

A **blizzard** warning means that we must expect snow, cold and wind. It's dangerous to drive to Edmonton if there is a blizzard warning because there will probably be: "poor visibility", (maybe even "**whiteout conditions**" when all you can see is the snow), "**poor lane definition**", and snow drifts. It will be difficult to see where you are going and it will be easy to have an accident, go off the road, or get stuck in the snow.

A **snowstorm** is not quite as bad as a blizzard, but it can still create big **snow drifts** and we will probably have to **shovel** the **sidewalk** and driveway. (There is a city **by-law** that says people must shovel the sidewalk in front of their home or business within 24 hours of when the snow stops falling.) Many people get a heart attack or hurt their backs from shoveling snow. Some lucky people have a **snowblower** or snow thrower to make it easier. Too much snow can cause school **closures**. Many children long for such an announcement.

"Today will be mostly cloudy with a few **flurries**. The high today will be **minus 13**; the low tonight will be **27 below**." These temperatures are not cold enough to be **record lows**. How cold are the winters where you come from? What is the coldest temperature you have experienced?



"**Freezing**" means 0 (zero) degrees Centigrade (Celsius) or +32° Fahrenheit. It can also mean "very, very cold." When the temperature is below freezing, the **wind-chill factor** can make it seem even colder. Can you guess why?

The cold can create **frost** on your windows and on the trees, it can let you see your breath, and a severe **cold snap** can even freeze or burst the water pipes in your house or the water mains underground. When snow on the roof **melts**, then freezes again, you can see **icicles** hanging from the roof.

Winter is **harsh** in the Arctic, but we are lucky that Calgary often gets **Chinooks** to bring **mild** weather and melt the ice and snow. You know that a Chinook is coming when you see the

Chinook arch above the mountains in the southwestern sky - cloudy on top and blue on the bottom. Have you seen a Chinook arch?

If it is very cold and not cloudy, we sometimes see **sundogs** on each side of the sun. They look like small bright lights or pieces of a rainbow.

We need to **winterize** our cars to get them ready for winter. This includes checking the **anti-freeze** and putting on **winter tires** or snow tires. If you can, it's best to put the new tires on **rims** to make it easier to change back and forth. When winter comes, we have to **brush** the snow off the car, **scrape** the ice off the windows, maybe use our **booster cables** to boost the battery of a car that won't start and plug in the **block-heater** for at least a few hours before we want to start the car if it's colder than -20°C. The blue **extension cords** are especially insulated for use outside in cold weather. You should also know that you cannot put the extension cord over the sidewalk so that people can't trip in it. Cars use more gas because they have to warm up.

Streets can be pretty slippery from a new snowfall until **snowplows** clear the roads and sanders spread sand and salt to prevent **skidding**, so traffic has to slow down. Sometimes "**black**" ice on the road is hard to see. In some places, like the mountains, only **chains** give enough **traction** to prevent **spinning** tires. Having a **sleigh** or **snowmobile** (skidoo) in these areas would be great. If you are in the mountains, beware of **avalanches** and pay attention to avalanche warnings.

People without cars have to **shiver** waiting for the bus and hope that they don't **slip** and fall on the icy ground or sidewalk. They should also spray their shoes with **silicone** or at least polish them with wax to protect them from water and salt damage.

Children look forward to winter in order to go **skating** (on a lake or ice rink), **skiing**, **snowboarding**, **snowshoeing**, sledding, **tobogganing**, tubing, skidooing, making snow angels, building **snowmen** and **snow forts**, and having snowball fights. I enjoy looking at ice and snow **sculptures**. Many people also like to watch **hockey** games, or even play in them. Some people also enjoy **curling** in winter. After playing outside, many people like to come in for a cup of hot chocolate (cocoa), perhaps with **marshmallows**.

You'd better be prepared with a hat or **toque**, a **scarf**, **mitts** or **gloves**, a warm jacket or coat, warm **boots**, etc. (A long jacket with a hood is called a **parka**. Special Eskimo boots are called "**mukluks**".) The best way to keep warm is to dress in **layers** that you can put on or take off with changes in the temperature.

You really need to **bundle up** to keep from getting **hypothermia** or **frostbite** when it's really cold. Hypothermia makes you shiver and then get very sleepy. Frostbite turns your skin red, and then white or greyish. You need to warm the frostbitten area very carefully with body heat or lukewarm water, not with snow and not with hot water.

Some Canadian "**Snowbirds**" avoid winter by going to Arizona or Florida for several months each year; others take shorter holidays there or in Mexico or Hawaii. Many real birds **migrate** or fly south for the winter, but others, like the Chickadee, choose to stay here.

A lot of small talk starts with the weather. Some typical "winter" small talk is: "Brr. It's freezing!", "I hope we get a Chinook soon.", "(Is it) cold enough for you?" or "What's it like out?" Can you think of something else to say to start a conversation about winter weather?

WINTER QUIZ

A piece of snow is called a _____.

Ice on the trees or the window is called _____.

Ice sticks hanging from the roof are called _____.

When we want to say it's very cold, we say, "It's _____".

-10° is a winter _____.

_____ are snowfalls with maybe a lot of snow but only for a short time.

When there's a blizzard, we have _____, _____, and _____.

When we have a snowstorm, sometimes children listen to the radio to find out if schools are _____ and they can stay at home. They can have fun making _____ or _____ or they can also help to _____ the driveway and sidewalk.

Calgary often gets _____ to bring mild weather, but a cold wind from the north causes the _____ to make it feel colder.

If the sidewalk is not cleaned, the ice and snow are very _____ and people can easily fall down. When the roads are icy, cars can easily _____ and cause an accident.

In the morning, you may need to _____ the ice off the _____ of your car.

You need an _____ to plug in your car's _____.

When your battery is dead, you need to have _____ so that another car can help start yours.

Children can get down a hill by using _____, _____, _____, _____, or _____.

A popular winter sport played on ice is _____.

A _____ has 5 fingers, but _____ have only a thumb and one big part for the other 4 fingers.

A _____ is a short coat. A _____ is a kind of winter hat.

People wear _____ around their necks to keep them warm.

When it is warm again, the ice and snow will _____ and disappear.

Christmas Play Vocabulary:

temple – place to meet and worship (honor) God

angel – messenger from God, not human

prayer – talking to God

Holy Spirit – God’s spirit

Messiah (Hebrew) = Christos (Greek) = Christ (English) – a person who was promised in the Old Testament to save all people and rule over Israel

praise – honor, show respect by something you say about someone

Galilee – northern province of Israel

virgin – woman who never had sex

carpenter – person who builds with wood

Roman emperor – like a king, but even more important, ruler of several countries from Rome, Italy

ancestor – parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc.

register – sign up, put your name on a list

census – counting of all the people in an area

Judea – southern province of Israel

Inn– small hotel

stable – a building that is a home for animals

hay – dry grass

manger – place where sheep and cows eat from

shepherd – person who takes care of sheep

worship – bow down, honor

priest – religious leader

prophet – someone who tells messages from God, especially about the future

frankincense – something you burn to make a nice smell

myrrh – something you put in perfume

Egypt – a country in Northeastern Africa, near Israel

The Real Story of Christmas

God Gives Us His Son

adapted from a play by Cathy Bidelspach

One day, while Zechariah was serving in the temple in Jerusalem, an angel appeared to him. Zechariah was surprised and afraid when he saw him.

Angel Gabriel:

“Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will be happy when he is born, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcohol. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord and persuade those who are disobeying God to change their actions.”

Zechariah:

“How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also getting old.”

Angel Gabriel:

“I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”

When Zechariah’s week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant. As the angel said, he was unable to speak until the baby was born.

Elizabeth:

“How kind the Lord is! He has taken away my disgrace of having no children.”

...One day while Mary was praying, she was surprised by an angel who appeared to her with a message from God

Angel Gabriel:

"Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary:

“What do you mean? What do you want?”

Angel Gabriel:

“Do not be afraid, Mary, I am a messenger from God. God is pleased with you! He has chosen you to be the mother of his son, the promised Messiah. His name will be called Jesus, which means 'God saves,' for he will save people from the punishment for their sins. He will be a king of Israel and will rule in the hearts of those who believe in him forever.”

Mary:

"How will this happen? I am not married yet and I haven't been with a man."

Angel Gabriel:

"You will become pregnant by God's Holy Spirit, not by Joseph whom you are planning to marry or by any other man. Your son, Jesus, will be the Son of God. Nothing is too hard for God. Even your cousin, Elizabeth, who is old and who was unable to have a child, is already 6 months pregnant."

Mary:

"I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said."

...The angel left, then Mary decided to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.

Mary:

"Elizabeth, I couldn't wait to talk with you."

Elizabeth:

"Oh, Mary, how wonderfully God has been good to you! All people on earth will be blessed by this child that you will have. You will be the mother of God's Son, the Promised Messiah! I felt my baby inside me jump for joy, when I heard your voice. It is a sign from God!"

Mary:

"I am so thankful to God for honoring me in this way. May God be **praised**! He is sending his Son, Jesus, to earth to be our Savior. God must love us very much!"

...After Elizabeth and Zechariah's baby was born, Mary went back to her home in Nazareth and told Joseph about their baby, and also about her baby. Joseph was upset because he thought the baby was from another man. But then an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream.

Angel:

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because her baby is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Joseph:

"Mary, I had a dream last night. An angel told me not to be afraid to marry you and that the child you are going to have really is the Son of God. He told me to name the baby Jesus, which means 'God saves.' I believe what God has said, and I will take care of you and your son."

Mary:

"Joseph, I believe what God has said too. May God be praised!"

*Mary and Joseph were married, but they did not have a sexual relationship until after Jesus is born. Mary remained a **virgin** until the birth of God's Son. They lived in the small town of Nazareth in **Galilee**, where Joseph worked in his **carpenter** shop. Joseph came home one day and told Mary some bad news.*

Joseph:

"The Roman **emperor**, Caesar Augustus, has ordered us to go to the town of our ancestors to **register** for the **census** to pay taxes. We must go to Bethlehem in **Judea**, the town of our ancestor, King David. I'm sorry we must travel so far right now, Mary, this is not a good time for you to travel. I know your baby will be born very soon."

Mary:

"Don't worry, Joseph, God will be with us. He will take care of us and his Son."

...Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Joseph tried to find a room for the night.

Joseph:

"Do you have any rooms?"

Innkeeper:

"Bethlehem is very crowded. Everyone is coming to register for the census. I'm sorry, but I don't have any rooms left."

Joseph:

"Don't you have any rooms at all? We have traveled for several days. My wife is pregnant and may have her baby any time. She is very tired."

Innkeeper:

"I know there aren't any rooms left in the whole town. I wish I could help you. Maybe you could stay in our **stable** tonight. It isn't much, but it is warm and dry."

The innkeeper took Mary and Joseph to the stable where he kept his animals.

Joseph:

"Mary, this is no place for you. I'm sorry that I couldn't find a nice room, but the inns are all full."

Mary:

"This is OK, Joseph. God will be with us here too! I'm thankful for whatever shelter we can find and at least there is soft **hay**."

*...That night the baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in a blanket and made a bed for him in a **manger**. Meanwhile, an angel appeared to **shepherds** who were in a nearby field watching their sheep that night.*

First Shepherd:

"Look, what is that bright light in the sky? Do you hear something?"

Angel:

"Don't be afraid. I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in pieces of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly the sky was bright. It was full of angels who were singing praises to God.

Many Angels:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

First Shepherd:

"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Second Shepherd:

"We're just poor shepherds, I can't believe that we will see the Promised Messiah with our own eyes! Let's hurry!"

First Shepherd:

"Look there's a light in that stable over there."

Second Shepherd:

"I can hardly believe it. Our Savior is here and I'm going to see him!"

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby.

First Shepherd:

"An angel told us that the Savior, the Messiah we have been waiting for has been born. May we see him?"

Joseph:

"Yes, please come in."

Second Shepherd:

"O God, we praise you! Thank you for sending the Promised Messiah and for letting us see him. I can't wait to tell everyone this good news."

After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what happened and what the angel said to them about this child. Then they went back to their sheep, praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as the angel had told them.

...Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in the capital city, Jerusalem.

First wise man:

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to **worship** him.”

Jerusalem citizen 1:

“I don’t know. I haven’t heard anything about a new baby king.”

Citizen 2:

“I don’t know, either. I think King Herod will be very upset. He even killed his oldest son because Herod thought his son wanted to be king too quickly.”

*King Herod was very upset when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He didn’t have a baby son, and he didn’t want anyone else to be king. He called a meeting of the leading **priests** and teachers of religious law.*

King Herod:

“Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

Priest:

“In Bethlehem in Judea, Your Majesty, for this is what Micah, the **prophet** wrote about 500 years ago.

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men.

King Herod:

“When did you first see the star?”

First Wise Man:

“About 2 years ago, your majesty.”

King Herod:

“Our Prophets say that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

*The star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem and even to the house where the child was. They saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they gave him gifts of gold, **frankincense, and myrrh**. When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another way, for God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.*

...After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

Angel:

“Get up! Go to Egypt with the child and his mother. Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

*That night Joseph left for **Egypt** with the child and Mary, his mother. Herod was very angry when he realized that the wise men weren’t coming back. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under. Even this sad event was prophesied in the Old Testament long before it happened. But Joseph’s family was safe in Egypt and they stayed there until King Herod died. When Mary and Joseph came back to Israel, they decided to live again in the small town of Nazareth, which is where Jesus grew up, far away from the new king, Archelus.*

The Christmas Story

An angel came to a young woman named Mary. He told her that she would have a baby. He said that the baby would be the Son of God and the King of Israel. The angel told Mary to give the baby the name of Jesus, which means, God saves.

Mary and her new husband, Joseph, travelled to Bethlehem, but there was no room in the inn (hotel). They went to a stable (house for animals). Jesus was born in the stable. Mary put him in a manger (place for animal's food).

An angel told some shepherds that Jesus was born and where to find him. The shepherds came and worshipped Jesus, then, they told many people about him.

A special star shone in the sky. The star told some wise men in an eastern country that a special person was born. They men came to see the new baby. They brought him gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh (used to make perfume).

The old king was jealous of Jesus. He tried to kill him, but Jesus and his family escaped.

Today, many people celebrate Christmas by decorating a tree, putting lights on their houses, and giving gifts. Many stores sell a lot of things in December, but they close early on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th), and are closed on Christmas Day (Dec. 25th.) They open again on Boxing Day (Dec. 26th) when many things are on sale and people can return presents (gifts) they don't like.

On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, some people go to church. They talk and sing about Jesus. Then they go home, open their presents and enjoy a turkey dinner together.

What are Christmas and Easter all About?

First, God made angels. One angel, Lucifer, wanted to be God, so he fought against God. Some other angels followed Lucifer. God sent them away. The bad angel's name changed to Satan. Sometimes, he is also called "the Serpent" (snake).

Later, God made the world with all the plants, birds, fish, animals, and 2 people. He also made a special garden called Eden. God put the people in the garden. There were 2 special trees in the garden – the tree of life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told the people, "Don't eat from the second tree, or you will die." But the Serpent told the woman the fruit would be good, so she ate. Now everyone dies. The people were ashamed and ran away from God. God was angry, but God loved them, too. He looked for them, and covered them with animal skins.

Later, people in Israel killed a sheep when they wanted to come close to God. The sheep died instead of the people. God gave a man named Moses 10 laws (commandments, rules) for people. But people don't obey those laws. They deserve God's anger and punishment, and death.

But God did not want to kill people. He wants to love people and He wants people to love Him. He sent Jesus to show people what God is like. Jesus taught about God and did many miracles.

Jesus also died instead of us, just like the sheep. Because Jesus was both God and man, when he died, it was God taking the punishment for us himself. When Jesus came alive again, he showed that God is stronger than death. If we trust Jesus, we can live with God forever.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Christmas is the biggest holiday of the year in Canada. We celebrate on Christmas Eve (December 24th), Christmas Day (Dec. 25th), and Boxing Day (Dec. 26th).

People do many things to get ready for Christmas. People put up Christmas trees in early December, and they decorate their houses with lights. They go to many Christmas parties. Many women bake special cookies. Many people send Christmas cards and letters to their family and friends. People also go shopping to buy Christmas presents.

Radios start to play Christmas songs (carols), near the beginning of December, and many people watch special Christmas programs on TV.

Children write letters to Santa Claus to tell him what they want for Christmas. In Canada, his address is: Santa Claus, North Pole, HOH OHO. Sometimes people at the post office try to answer these letters.

Many parents take their children to see Santa Claus at a mall. Santa Claus has small people called elves who help him. They make the toys and help him to give them to the children. Santa has a lot of places to go on Christmas Eve, so he flies in a sleigh pulled by 8 reindeer and sometimes helped by Rudolf, the Red-Nosed reindeer. Sometimes the sleigh or reindeer are also at the mall.

Some people are too poor to go Christmas shopping. The Salvation Army and others collect money to help these poor people.

Popular foods at Christmas are turkey, fruitcake, cookies, eggnog, and candy canes. Popular decorations are wreaths, evergreen branches, red ribbon, Christmas stockings, colored balls, holly, bells, poinsettias, mistletoe, snowmen, Santas, reindeer, candy canes, and manger scenes (or nativity scenes) with baby Jesus.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Christmas is the biggest holiday of the year in Canada. It is both a religious and a national holiday. Almost all businesses close early on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th), and stores stay closed on Christmas Day (Dec. 25th). Boxing day (Dec 26th) is also a holiday for businesses, but most stores are open for Christmas shoppers to exchange presents that they don't like or that don't fit or to take advantage of special sales, including low prices on electronics and 1/2 price sales on Christmas cards and decorations. (Boxing day originally got its name because people used to put their leftover food and some other things in boxes to give to poor people the day after Christmas.)

Christmas trees are put up early in December, but presents are often not put under the tree until Christmas Eve. Some people open their presents on Christmas Eve, but most parents tell their children that Santa Claus brings the presents during the night, and they see and open them on Christmas morning. Some people also hang Christmas stockings by the fireplace, or on a wall for Santa to fill on Christmas Eve. Little presents that can be put in a stocking are called "Stocking Stuffers". After opening the presents, families share a big turkey dinner. Because Christmas is such a family time, many people travel home for Christmas, and those who can't go home, or who have to work often feel lonely.

The 4 Sundays of Advent (the time before Christmas), when some people have advent wreaths, remind people that Christmas is coming soon. (They light one (more) candle for each Sunday, then the 5th one in the middle on Christmas Eve.) People do many things to prepare for Christmas. It is often the busiest time of the year. Almost every company has a Christmas party for its employees, and many churches and other organizations also have Christmas parties, or banquets. Women bake cookies and fruitcake, families put up and decorate trees, and put lights or other decorations in the windows and on the house. The Christmas lights are so beautiful that many people take bus tours or drive around town in their own cars to see the various light displays.

This is also the only time of year when some people write letters. They send Christmas cards to family and friends, both near and far, and often tell what they have been doing all year. Children write letters to Santa Claus to tell him what they want for Christmas. In Canada, his official address is: Santa Claus, North Pole, HOH OHO. Sometimes, people at the post office try to answer these letters.

Children can also visit Santa Claus in person at most malls. Many parents take their children to see Santa Claus and have their picture taken with him. Santa Claus has small people called elves who help him. They make the toys and help him to give them to the children. Santa has a lot of places to go on Christmas Eve, so he flies in a sleigh pulled by 8 reindeer and sometimes helped by Rudolf, the Red-Nosed reindeer. Sometimes the sleigh or reindeer are also at the mall.

Radios start to play Christmas carols, or songs, near the beginning of December. Soon, there are many Christmas songs and special programs on TV. Some traditional Christmas movies are "A Christmas Carol" (or "Scrooge") from a book by Charles

Dickens, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", by Dr. Seuss, and "It's a Wonderful Life". People also go to theatres and churches to see Christmas pageants (plays) and hear Christmas concerts. Some people like to sing Christmas songs themselves. They go caroling in their neighborhoods - going from house to house singing Christmas songs, though this was more popular in the past than now.

Of course, there is Christmas shopping. Store owners start to advertise with Christmas displays in October, so that people have a long time in which they can spend their Christmas money. Many people buy more than they can afford. They charge it on their credit cards, and pay for the things in January and February.

Some people are too poor to go Christmas shopping. There are always groups of people, like the Salvation Army, who collect money to help these poor people, and maybe give them a turkey, or give the children a present. Many people also buy toys and other gifts for poor children in other countries. They put these things in a shoebox and an organization called Samaritan's Purse delivers them.

Popular foods at Christmas are, of course, turkey, and also fruitcake, cookies, eggnog (a drink made with milk or cream, sugar, and eggs), and candy canes. Popular decorations are wreaths, evergreen branches, red ribbon, tinsel, Christmas stockings, glass balls, holly, bells, poinsettias, mistletoe, snowmen, Santas, reindeer, candy canes, and, of course, manger scenes (or nativity scenes) with baby Jesus.

People who want to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmastime often go to a candlelight service or mass at their church on Christmas Eve and/or another special church service on Christmas morning. Both times, they enjoy singing the old Christmas carols about Jesus' birth and the meaning of his life. They think the celebration of Christmas should be more about Jesus than about Santa Claus and getting presents. Actually, Santa Claus is based on a real person called Saint Nicholas who lived in Turkey hundreds of years ago. (He died in the year 350 AD.) He is called a saint because he was a very good Christian person.

Here is a list of priceless gifts to give for Christmas:

To your enemy - forgiveness

To your opponent - tolerance

To your friends - your heart

To children - a good example

To your father - deference

To your mother - conduct that will make her proud of you

To yourself - respect

To everyone else - charity.

Christmas Questions – week 2

1. Christmas means “celebration of Christ”. Why do you think the main focus of Christmas these days is Santa Claus and getting/giving presents?
2. What details in the “Christmas Story” help you realize it is true (history), and not just a story?
3. What details make it hard to believe?
4. What things in the “Christmas Story” have you seen as Christmas decorations?
5. If Jesus just came to save people in Israel, why do you think people all over the world believe in and worship him?
6. What do you know about how or why Jesus saved the world?

A Christmas Quiz (How well do you know the Christmas story?)

1-12: **Luke1** 13-15: **Matt.1** 16-27: **Luke2** 28-38: **Matt.2**
(**T = true, F = false, ? = We don't know. P = partly true.**)

1. Zacharias saw a vision of an angel when he went into the temple to pray. T F ? P
2. Gabriel told Zacharias that his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby even though she was old. T F ? P
3. Zacharias was glad to hear that his wife would finally have a baby. T F ? P
4. Zacharias could neither hear nor speak till after John was born. T F ? P
5. Zacharias knew what John's job would be. T F ? P
6. God chose Mary to be the mother of the Messiah because she had lived a perfect life. T F ? P
7. A messenger from God named Gabriel visited Mary. T F ? P
8. An angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby named Jesus who would be the son of God and the king of Israel. T F ? P
9. At first, Mary questioned the angel's message, because she was a virgin. T F ? P
10. To protect her reputation, Mary told all her friends and relatives in Nazareth about the angel's message. T F ? P
11. Mary went to visit her relative, Elizabeth, 2-3 months before Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist, was born. T F ? P
12. Elizabeth knew that Mary was pregnant with the Messiah even without Mary saying anything. T F ? P
13. Joseph was engaged to Mary, but he decided to divorce her before they got married because he thought she had been unfaithful to him. T F ? P
14. Joseph decided to marry Mary anyway because an angel told him the baby was from the Holy Spirit. T F ? P
15. Mary stayed a virgin even after Jesus was born. T F ? P
16. Joseph and Mary had to travel to Jerusalem to pay taxes to King Herod. T F ? P
17. Joseph was a descendent of David, the second king of Israel, so they had to go to Bethlehem. T F ? P
18. Mary rode a donkey while Joseph walked the whole way. T F ? P
19. It was a cold trip because it was wintertime, and it was snowing. T F ? P

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(**T = true, F = false, ? = We don't know. P = partly true.**)

20. Jesus was born in a manger because there was no more room in the inn. T F ? P
21. Angels sang to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the Highest" T F ? P
22. Shepherds were guided by a star to the manger. T F ? P
23. The shepherds found Jesus lying in a manger. T F ? P
24. The shepherds told others about Jesus. T F ? P
25. Two people in the temple area in Jerusalem recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was still a baby. T F ? P
26. Simeon prophesied that Jesus was a light for all the people in the world. T F ? P
27. Mary & Joseph only offered birds for Jesus' birth because they were too poor to buy a sheep. T F ? P
28. Three kings from the East came to worship Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, one of whom was black. T F ? P
29. The wise men saw a super-nova and a prophecy that told them to go to Israel. T F ? P
30. They went to the capital city, Jerusalem, to find the new king. T F ? P
31. The Scribes knew that the Old Testament prophet, Micah, predicted that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. T F ? P
32. The old king, Herod, gladly told them where to find the new king, Jesus. T F ? P
33. Herod asked the wise men to let him know where Jesus was so he could worship him, too. T F ? P
34. The wise men found Jesus in a house. T F ? P
35. The wise men gave 3 gifts to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. T F ? P
36. The wise men went back to Herod to tell him where Jesus was. T F ? P
37. Herod sent soldiers to kill all the babies in and around Bethlehem that were 2 years old or younger. T F ? P
38. Joseph had a dream and escaped with Jesus and Mary back to Nazareth. T F ? P

A Christmas Quiz (How well do you know the Christmas story?)

1-12: **Luke1** 13-15: **Matt.1** 16-27: **Luke2** 28-38: **Matt.2**
(**T = true, F = false, ? = We don't know. P = partly true.**)

ANSWERS

1. Zacharias saw a vision of an angel when he went into the temple to pray. F P (It was a real angel)
2. Gabriel told Zacharias that his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby even though she was old. T
3. Zacharias was glad to hear that his wife would finally have a baby. F (He doubted)
4. Zacharias could neither hear nor speak till after John was born. ? (We know he couldn't speak, but we don't know whether he could hear or not. They made signs to him to ask a question.)
5. Zacharias knew what John's job would be. T P
6. God chose Mary to be the mother of the Messiah because she had lived a perfect life. F Lk 1:47
(She wouldn't need a Savior if she was perfect.)
7. A messenger from God named Gabriel visited Mary. T (angel means messenger)
8. An angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby named Jesus who would be the son of God and the king of Israel. T P
9. At first, Mary questioned the angel's message, because she was a virgin. T
10. To protect her reputation, Mary told all her friends and relatives in Nazareth about the angel's message. F
11. Mary went to visit her relative, Elizabeth, 2-3 months before Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist, was born. T
12. Elizabeth knew that Mary was pregnant with the Messiah even without Mary saying anything. T P
13. Joseph was engaged to Mary, but he decided to divorce her before they got married because he thought she had been unfaithful to him. T
14. Joseph decided to marry Mary anyway because an angel told him the baby was from the Holy Spirit. T P (in a dream)
15. Mary stayed a virgin even after Jesus was born. F (Catholics teach this)
16. Joseph and Mary had to travel to Jerusalem to pay taxes to King Herod. F
17. Joseph was a descendent of David, the second king of Israel, so they had to go to Bethlehem for the census. T P
18. Mary rode a donkey while Joseph walked the whole way. ? (Popular idea)

A Christmas Quiz (How well do you know the Christmas story?)

1-12: **Luke1** 13-15: **Matt.1** 16-27: **Luke2** 28-38: **Matt.2**
(**T = true, F = false, ? = We don't know. P = partly true.**)

19. It was a cold trip because it was wintertime, and it was snowing. F (Israel only has snow on the mountaintops)
20. Jesus was born in a manger because there was no more room in the inn. F (born in a stable, laid in a manger later)
21. Angels sang to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the Highest" F P (only said)
22. Shepherds were guided by a star to the manger. F (angels told them)
23. The shepherds found Jesus lying in a manger. T
24. The shepherds told others about Jesus. T P
25. Two people in the temple area in Jerusalem recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was still a baby. T P
26. Simeon prophesied that Jesus was a light for all the people in the world. T P
27. Mary & Joseph only offered birds for Jesus' birth because they were too poor to buy a sheep. T Lev. 12:8
28. Three kings from the East came to worship Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, one of whom was black. F/? (popular image)
29. The wise men saw a super-nova and a prophecy that told them to go to Israel. F/? P Num 24:7
(It was a weird star because it moved west, then south, then pointed to the very house)
30. They went to the capital city, Jerusalem, to find the new king. T
31. The Scribes knew that the Old Testament prophet, Micah, predicted that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. T P Micah 5:2
32. The old king, Herod, gladly told the wise men where to find the new king, Jesus. F
33. Herod asked the wise men to let him know where Jesus was so he could worship him, too. T
34. The wise men found Jesus in a house. T
35. The wise men gave 3 gifts to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. T
36. The wise men went back to Herod to tell him where Jesus was. F
37. Herod sent soldiers to kill all the babies in and around Bethlehem that were 2 years old or younger. F P (only the boys)
38. Joseph had a dream and escaped with Jesus and Mary back to Nazareth. F P (first to Egypt)

Merry Christmas from successintesi.

This free Christmas in Canada kit for Levels high 1 to 3*, includes:

- 1 Contents (this page)
- 2 Instruction Sheet
- 3-4 Story: Christmas in Canada
- 5 Scrambled Strips (story review)
- 6 Game Board (expand to 11 x 14 paper)
- 7-9 Question Cards and Backing for L. 1-2*



**Copy question and chance pages with corresponding card backing on reverse side.*

10-11 Chance Cards and Backing for L. 1-2*

12-15 Question Cards and Backing for L. 3*

16-17 Chance Cards and Backing for L. 3*

18-19 Christmas Card Master** for class card exchanges.

***Copy double-sided in a variety of colours and then cut between cards.*

HINT: Make one set for your school that all L. 1 to 3 teachers can share.

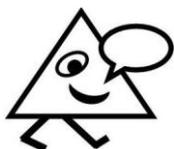
Feel free to pass this on to a colleague who can use it.

***Note: For Lit/Low 1 see our Holidays for Literacy binder, with its photocopiable Christmas reader, phonics and reader activities and Christmas carol for Literacy and Low 1.**

We wish you and your families the very best of holidays.

Merry Christmas!

Donna and Rene, successintesi



For teachers who love teaching by teachers who love teaching.

email: successintesi@yahoo.ca

Website: www.successintesi.ca



1. Christmas in Canada (picture story for levels 1-2)

2. Scrambled Strips

3. Christmas Card Exchange (Copy double-sided as is: 3 cards to a page)

- Copy on different-coloured paper. Cut horizontally between cards.
- Draw a giant envelope on the board. Elicit what to write (and where) on the envelope.
- Go over what to write on the inside of the card: the other person's first name at the top, or their first name plus "and family" (but no "to") (and not the date.) Under the typed message they can write "Merry Christmas", "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year", etc. Remind them to sign their first name only (not the last one) at the bottom.
- Have each student write their name and address on a slip of paper. Collect and redistribute the slips so that everyone has a different classmate to whom they can send a card. Give out the cards and envelopes.
- When finished, have the students deliver their card, shake hands and wish the other person Merry Christmas.



If you are having a joint Christmas party with another class, exchange name and address slips with the other teacher(s). Then when the classes meet, everyone can find the person to whom the card belongs. In addition to having them shake hands and wish Merry Christmas they can also introduce themselves.

4. Christmas in Canada Board Game *To play you will need:*

- 1 game marker per player
- 1 die per group of 3 to 5 students
- 1 game board per group (on legal size paper)
- 1 set of chance cards* per group
- 1 set of question cards*
- * *There are 2 sets: 1 for L. 1-2; 1 for L. 3.*
- **Copy the chance cards and question cards in different colours for more pizzazz.*

How to Play the Christmas in Canada Board Game

- Model with a group of students while the class gathers around to watch.
 - S1 rolls the die and moves that number of spaces. The **next student** reads their card: a snowflake (chance) card if they land on snowflakes and a Santa's sleigh (question) card if they land on that picture. **The student who rolls the die does not read their own card.** this way, everyone is listening to the question - much more interactive! Then the next student rolls the die and another student reads their card, and so on.
 - The winner is the person who is closest to the finish when the time is up.
- ☞ Model some comprehension gambits: *Pardon me? Could you repeat that? Come again?*
 - ☞ When students come to the end of the card deck, have them shuffle the deck and place it face down on the table so play can continue.

Other Christmas Activities:

- Christmas Carols
- Secret Santa:
- Christmas Potluck Party
- Field Trip to see Christmas displays.
- Flyers on Christmas activities at schools, shopping centres, or community centres.

⇒ For literacy/low 1 see the chapter in our **HOLIDAYS FOR LITERACY** binder.

Christmas in Canada by Donna Bowler

A Few Weeks Before Christmas

1. People buy gifts for friends and family.



What _____ people buy?
Who _____ they buy gifts for?

2. They send Christmas cards to friends and family.



What _____ they send?
Who _____ they send cards to?

3. They put up a Christmas tree and decorate it.



What _____ they put up?
What _____ decorate?

4. Everyone listens to Christmas music.



What _____ everyone listen to?

5. People go to Christmas parties at work and at friends' homes.



What _____?
Where _____?
_____?

6. Children write a letter to Santa Claus.



What _____?
_____?

On Christmas Eve

7. Children put up stockings.



What _____
_____?

8. Santa Claus comes.



Who _____?

9. He fills the stockings and leaves gifts.



What _____
_____ do?

On Christmas Day

10. Everyone says, "Merry Christmas!"



What _____
_____ say?

11. Everyone opens their gifts.



What _____
_____ open?

12. There is a big Christmas dinner.



What _____?

the Weeks Before Christmas

After Christmas

On Christmas Eve

On Christmas Day

Santa Claus comes to every home.



On Boxing Day there are big sales at many stores.



Santa fills the stockings and leaves gifts.

Everyone opens their gifts.



There is a big Christmas dinner with roast turkey



Everyone says "Merry Christmas".

People send Christmas cards to relatives and friends.



People put up a Christmas tree and lights.



People put a wreath on their front door.

People go shopping for gifts for friends and family.



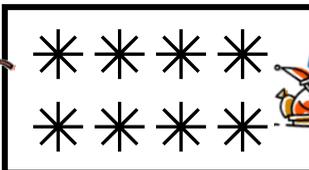
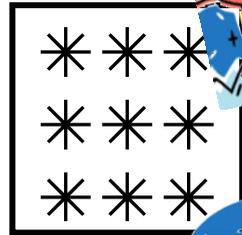
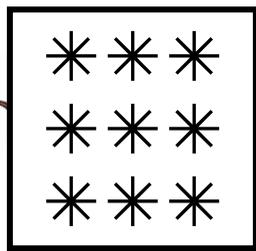
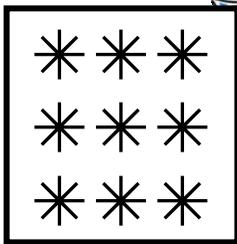
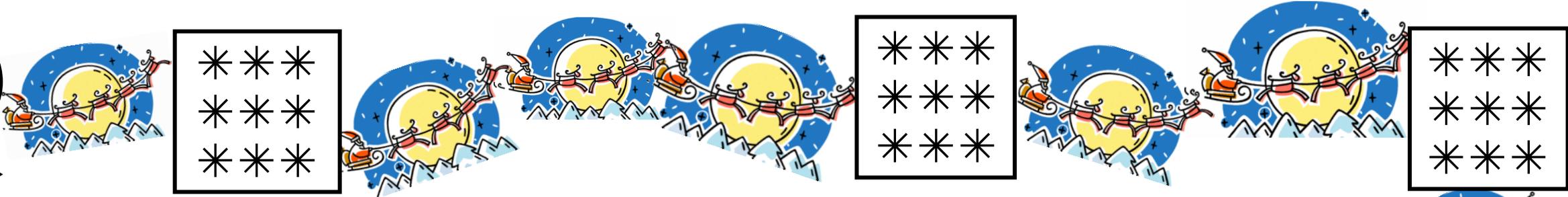
Everyone listens to Christmas music.



Children put up stockings.



Start →



What do people put up before Christmas?

When do people listen to Christmas music?

What 3 holidays are in the Christmas break?

Where do people put Christmas gifts?

What are the names of two Christmas songs?

What does 'merry' mean?

Where were you last Christmas?

Name 3 Canadian holidays.

Who comes to every home on Christmas Eve?

What are your plans for the Christmas break?

What holiday is number one in your country?

What do children put up on Christmas Eve?

When is New Year's Eve?

What do people eat for Christmas dinner?

What do people do on New Year's Eve?

When are there big sales at many stores?

How long is Christmas break for schools?

How is Christmas different in your country?

When
is
Christmas?

What do people
do before
Christmas?

What do people
say on
Christmas Day?

When is
Christmas
Eve?

What do people
write in
Christmas cards?

When is
Boxing
Day?

What do people
do on
Christmas Eve?

What do
children do on
Christmas Eve?

What happens
on Boxing
Day?

Who do people
give Christmas
cards to?

Who is
Santa Claus?

When are stores
open around
Christmas?

Who do people
give Christmas
gifts to?

When do people
open their
Christmas gifts?

When do people
have office
parties?

How do
you spell
Christmas?

When should you visit
a Canadian to say
Merry Christmas?

What places
are open on
Christmas Day?



You didn't send
any Christmas
cards.
Go back 2.

You study
English on
the holiday.
Go ahead 4.

You bought
gifts for
your family.
Go ahead 2.

You didn't
buy any gifts
for your family.
Go back 2.

You like
turkey.
Go ahead 1.

You don't
like turkey.
Go back 1.

You say Merry
Christmas to
your neighbour.
Go ahead 3.

You don't say
Merry Christmas
to the bus driver.
Go back 2.

You tell a
neighbour you
like his lights.
Go ahead 3.

You hope
it snows
for Christmas.
Go ahead 3.

You put up a
Christmas tree.
Go ahead 3.

You go for
a walk to
see the lights.
Go ahead 2.

A neighbour
asks you to
a party.
Go ahead 3.

You tell your
child there is
no Santa Claus.
Go back 2.

You put
a wreath
on your door.
Go ahead 1.

You try to go
shopping on
Christmas Day.
Go back 2.

You get a
Christmas
card.
Go ahead 2.

You say Merry
Christmas to
a store clerk.
Go ahead 1.

Where do people hang Christmas wreaths?

Why do children get up early on Christmas Day?

Why do people leave cookies and milk out on Christmas Eve?

When do people listen to Christmas carols?

Who do people give Christmas gifts to?

When is Christmas Eve?

Where does Santa Claus live?

When do people open their Xmas presents?

How do people decorate their homes before Christmas?

Why do children write a letter to Santa Claus?

What do people eat for Christmas dinner?

What do people wish each other on Xmas Day?

What do children put up on Christmas Eve?

Where do people put gifts before Christmas?

When is Christmas dinner?

What do people bake before Christmas?

Where are you going during the Christmas holiday?

Who is Santa Claus?

Are you dreaming of a white Christmas? Why/why not?

Did you buy any Christmas gifts this year? Who for?

What is a Christmas bonus? Who gets one?

Why do Canadians feel a little blue in January?

If you could have one New Year's wish come true, what would it be?

Name 6 Canadian holidays. When are they?

How do you spell Santa Claus?

Which holiday in your country is similar to Christmas? Why?

What should you remember if you serve alcohol at a Christmas party?

What are your New Year's Resolutions?

What is the first verse of one Christmas carol?

How does Santa get around?

What are your plans for New Year's Eve?

Should you give your boss a Christmas gift? Explain.

What are 2 good gifts to give to a Canadian?

Where and how did you spend last Christmas Day?

What places are open on Christmas Day?

What is Dec. 26th called? What do people do on this day?

What other holidays do Canadian children love? Why?

How do children know if Santa has visited their home?

Who fills children's stockings?

What special foods do Canadians eat for Christmas dinner?

What is the best gift you've ever gotten? Why was it the best?

Who do children give Christmas presents to?

What do children do on Christmas Eve?

When do workplaces have Christmas parties?

What are your plans for Christmas Day?

What do people do in the weeks before Christmas?

How is Christmas different in your country?

Name 3 Christmas carols.

What are some popular gifts?

What do people here do on Christmas Day?

What are the next 2 holidays after Christmas?

What do people write on Christmas cards?

What are the special Christmas colours?

Why is Christmas so popular?

Who do people send Christmas cards to?

What should you usually **not** give as a gift to a Canadian?

Why are there so many big sales on Boxing Day?

When should you visit a Canadian to wish them Merry Christmas?

What do people hang on their front doors?

What do people eat and drink at Christmas parties?

What is the short form for Christmas?

When should you call a Canadian to wish them Merry Christmas?

How do you spell Christmas *backwards*?



You didn't send anyone
a Christmas card –
not even your teacher!
Go back 2 spaces.

You received a
Christmas bonus
of \$25.
Go ahead 1 space.

You received
a Christmas bonus
of \$100.
Go ahead 2 spaces.

You know all the words
to the song "*We Wish
You a Merry Christmas*".
Go ahead 1 space.

You bought a
Christmas gift for
your parents.
Go ahead 2 spaces.

You didn't bother
getting a Christmas
gift for your parents.
Go back 4 spaces.

You wished
the bus driver
Merry Christmas.
Go ahead 4 spaces.

You put up some
Xmas decorations
at your house.
Go ahead 1 space.

You think
Christmas is a
waste of time.
Go back 4 spaces.

You think that
turkey is
delicious.
Go ahead 1 space.

You gave some
money to charity.
Go ahead 2 spaces.

You have been
invited to a
Christmas party.
Go ahead 4 spaces.

You invited someone
to your house for
coffee and Christmas
desserts. Go ahead 3.

You have a
wreath on your
front door.
Go ahead 1 space.

You told your
neighbour you liked
his decorations. Go
ahead 2 spaces.

You hope we'll
have a white
Christmas.
Go ahead 3 spaces.

You didn't buy a
gift for your
husband or wife.
Go back 5 spaces.

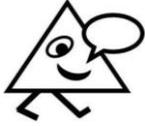
You wish all your
classmates Merry
Xmas after the last
class. Go ahead 1.

You told your
young child there
was no Santa Claus.
Go back 4 spaces.

You forgot to
send your
Christmas cards.
Go back 2 spaces.

You forget that
everything is closed
on Christmas Day.
Go back 3 spaces.

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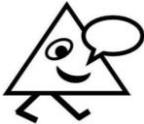
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SEASON'S GREETINGS



Merry
Christmas



**HAPPY
HOLIDAY**





**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS !**



**SEASONS
GREETINGS !**



**SEASONS
GREETINGS !**

Give & Get idioms:

Give away

Give sb a break

Give me a break!

Give in

Give sb a lift or a ride

Give up

Give way

Get across an idea

Get away with sg

Get behind sb or sg

Get by with sg

Get sg done

Get down on all fours

Get a grip!

Get a lift, get a ride

Get in(to)/get out of – a car, trouble

Get on/get off

Get on with sg

Get sg out of a class or presentation

What'll I get out of it?

Get over sg

Get sg over with

A get-together

Get out of bed

Get up

A get-up

Get with it!

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor *Diocletian*, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the *Council of Nicaea* in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique *relic*, called *manna*, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, *St. Nicholas Day*, December 6th.

1821 brought some new elements with publication of the first lithographed book in America, the *Children's Friend*. This "Sante Claus" arrived from the North in a sleigh with a flying reindeer. The anonymous poem and illustrations proved pivotal in shifting imagery away from a saintly bishop.

The jolly elf image received another big boost in 1823, from a poem destined to become immensely popular, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," now better known as "The Night Before Christmas" attributed to Clement Moore.

Other artists and writers continued the change to an elf-like St. Nicholas, "Sancte Claus," or "Santa Claus," unlike the stately European bishop.

Santa was then portrayed by dozens of artists in a wide variety of styles, sizes, and colors. However by the end of the 1920s, a standard American Santa—life-sized in a red, fur-trimmed suit—had emerged from the work of N. C. Wyeth, Norman Rockwell and other popular illustrators. In 1931 [Haddon Sundblom](#) began thirty-five years of Coca-Cola Santa advertisements that popularized and firmly established this Santa as an [icon](#) of contemporary commercial culture.)

Santa Claus: An Engineer's Perspective

There are approximately 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. However, since Santa does not visit children of Moslem, Hindu, Jewish or Buddhist religions, this reduces the workload for Christmas night to 15 percent of the total, or 378 million (according to the population reference bureau). At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that comes to 108 million homes, presuming that there is at least one good child in each

Santa has about 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 967.7 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with a good child, Santa has around 1/ 1000th of a second to park the sleigh, hop out, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left for him, get back up the chimney, jump into the sleigh and get on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 108 million stops is evenly distributed around the world (which, of course, we know to be false, but will accept for the purposes of our calculations) we are now talking about 0.78 miles per household; the total trip of 75.5 million miles, not counting bathroom stops or breaks. This means Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second -- 3000 times the speed of sound. For the purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second and ordinary reindeer can run, at best, 15 miles per hour.

The payload of the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized Lego set (two pounds), the sleigh is carrying over 5000 tons not counting Santa himself. On land, a conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that the flying reindeer can pull 10 times the normal amount, the job can't be done with eight or even nine of them -- -- Santa would need 360,000 of them. This increases the payload, not counting the weight of the sleigh, another 54,000 tons, or roughly seven times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth (the ship, not the monarch).

600,000 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance-- -- this would heat up the reindeer in the same fashion as a spacecraft re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer would absorb 14.3 quintillion joules of energy per second each. In short, they would burst into flames almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them and creating deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team would be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second, or right about the time Santa reached the fifth house on this trip. Not that it matters, however, since Santa, as a result of accelerating from a dead stop to 650 miles per second in .001seconds would be subjected to a centrifugal force of 17,500 G.'s. A 250 pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of the sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force, instantly crushing his bones and organs and reducing him to a quivering blob of pink goo. Therefore, if Santa did exist, he's dead now!

Dear Santa

KIDS' LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS

From *Love Letters to Santa*, collected and edited by Bill Adler. Adler is the editor of *Letters from Camp*, *Kids' Letters to President Kennedy* and 50 other books about young people.

Dear Santa,

This is the last letter I can write to you. Next year I will be 7 and I won't believe in Santa Claus anymore.

Love,
Michael

Dear Santa Claus,

Please leave a nice present for my mother and father.

Please leave a present for my big brother but don't make it so nice.

Your friend,
Robin

Dear Santa,

I want a puppy for Christmas. Or a pussycat. Or a snake.

Your friend,
Stanley

P.S. My father doesn't know about the snake.

Dear Santa and Mrs. Claus:

I am writing to you for my little brother Anthony.

Please leave him some nice toys that we can both play with.

Love,
Milly

Dear Mr. Santa Claus:

This Christmas I would like a pussycat.

Last Christmas I got a dog.

Next Christmas I want a horse.

Your friend,
Arnold

P.S. I don't know yet what animals I will want after that.

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the baby brother you left us last Christmas.

I hope you do better this year.

Ronald

Dear St. Nick:

I need a new skateboard for Christmas. The one I got crashes too much.

Billy

Dear Santa:

What time will you come to our house on Christmas Day? Please don't come too early.

My daddy likes to sleep late and he gets mad if we wake him.

Thank you,
Barbara

P.S. But don't worry. I don't think he will get mad at you.

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the trains. My father plays with them all the time.

Your pal,
Stevie

Dear Santa:

Last year you got my brother Peter a water gun.

This year I would like you to get me a water gun so I can shoot back.

Love,
Carole

To Santa Claus,

Our Little League needs a new pitcher for Christmas.

Your pal,
Rufus

Dear Santa Claus,

I would like boxing gloves.

I want to surprise my best friend.

Alfred

Dear Santa,

I hope you can get a new dress for my mother.

It can be any color as long as it is blue.

Love,
Veronica

Dear Santa Claus:

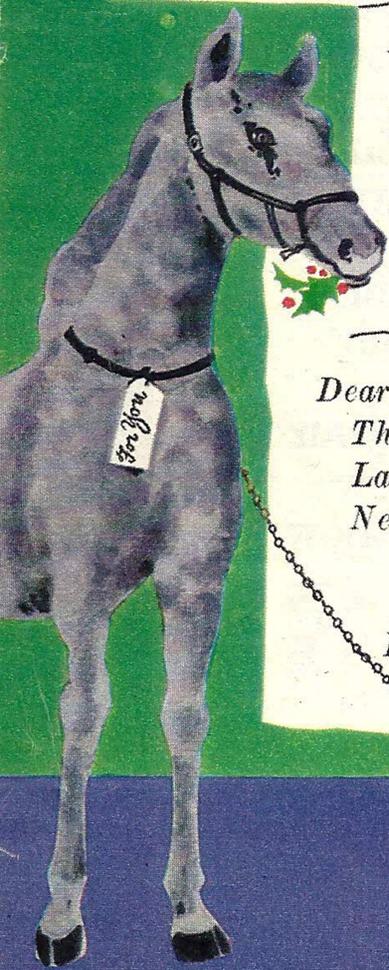
I hope we have snow for Christmas so I can use my new sled which I know I am getting for Christmas because I asked my mother six times.

Your friend,
Lucy

Dear Santa Claus,

I say my prayers every night and I always help my mother and I didn't sock my brother today.

Love,
William ■



Expand or combine these sentence fragments to make complete sentences.

Santa Claus lives

at the North Pole

Children write letters to

Postal Code H0H 0H0

because Santa always says, "Ho, Ho, Ho!"

Santa wears red

many helpers called elves

who make the toys

8 Reindeer names Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen

pull Santa's sleigh

Rudolf also

has a red nose.

One foggy night, he guided

fly to the rooftop

comes down the chimney

People hang stockings

puts presents under the tree

milk and cookies for a treat

a very busy night

but then he can rest until next year.