

An Introduction to Santa

(Early Years Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1)



Welcome to a Magical Christmas Adventure!

This teacher's support pack is designed to help your students gain the maximum benefit from their visit to our Christmas production.






This pack provides a brief background on the history of Santa Claus, some of the key elements in the show and includes classroom activities which are fun and informative as well as easy for teachers to organise.



Santa Claus Today

Many of the things we know about Santa Claus were revealed in the publication of an anonymous poem in 1823. *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* was later attributed to the American writer Clement Clarke Moore.

As you read the poem listen out for, and underline, these classic Christmas themes:

-  Stockings are hung by the chimney
-  Santa arrives on his sleigh with his reindeer
-  Santa has a sleigh full of toys
-  He has a white beard
-  He is very jolly



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Act the poem out as you read it aloud!

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;

And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.



Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,

When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,

With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:



"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;

So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.



He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;

He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.



He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight-
“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!”





Santa Claus Word Search

(KS1)

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

CANDYCANE

ELF

NICE

REINDEER

STAR

CHIMNEY

MINCE PIE

NORTH POLE

SLEIGH

STOCKING

CHRISTMAS

NAUGHTY

PRESENTS

SNOW

TOYS

Santa Claus Word Search

(EYFS)



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

Elf
Ice

Santa
Snow

Star
Toys

Santa Claus Around the World

Santa Claus is known by many different names to children all around the world. Can you match the right flag to the name and country?

 **UK** - Father Christmas

 **USA** - Santa Claus

 **France** - Pere Noel

 **The Netherlands** - Sinterklaas

 **Russia** - Ded Moroz (Old Man Frost)

 **Italy** - Babbo Natale

 **China** - Dun Che Lao Ren (Christmas Old Man)

 **Hawaii** - Kanakaloka

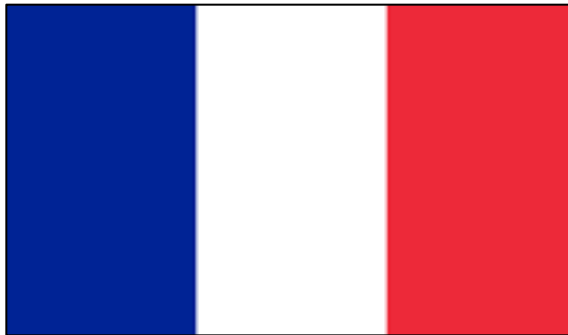
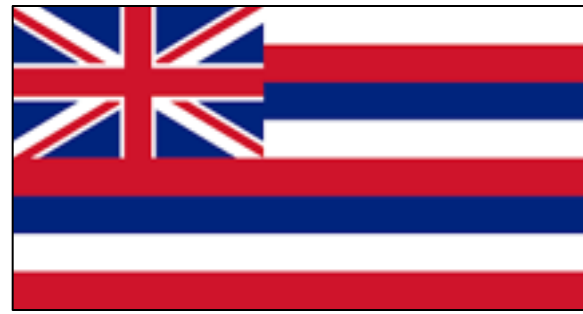
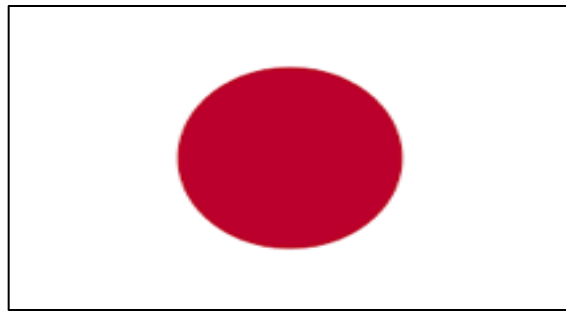
 **German** - Weihnachtsmann (Christmas Man)

 **Spain** - Papa Noel

 **Poland** - Swiety Mikolaj (St. Nicholas)

 **Japan** - Hoteiosho (a god or priest who bears gifts)





Santa's Reindeer

- **Can you name all of Santa's Reindeer?** (Hint - 8 of them are listed in the poem *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*)
- **Can you name Santa's reindeer with the red, shiny nose?** Sing the song and point to your nose every time the famous reindeer's nose is mentioned



Rudolph the **Red-Nosed** Reindeer

Rudolph the **red-nosed** reindeer
Had a very shiny **nose**
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas eve
Santa came to say,
"Rudolph with your **nose** so bright
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"
Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee
Rudolph the **red-nosed** reindeer
You'll go down in history



Reindeer Spelling Game

Put the missing letters into the Reindeers' names

L - H - M - E - A - D - X - U - E - N - L

RU _ O _ PH

B _ ITZEN

CO _ ET

DAS _ ER

PR _ NC _ R

VI _ EN

C _ PID

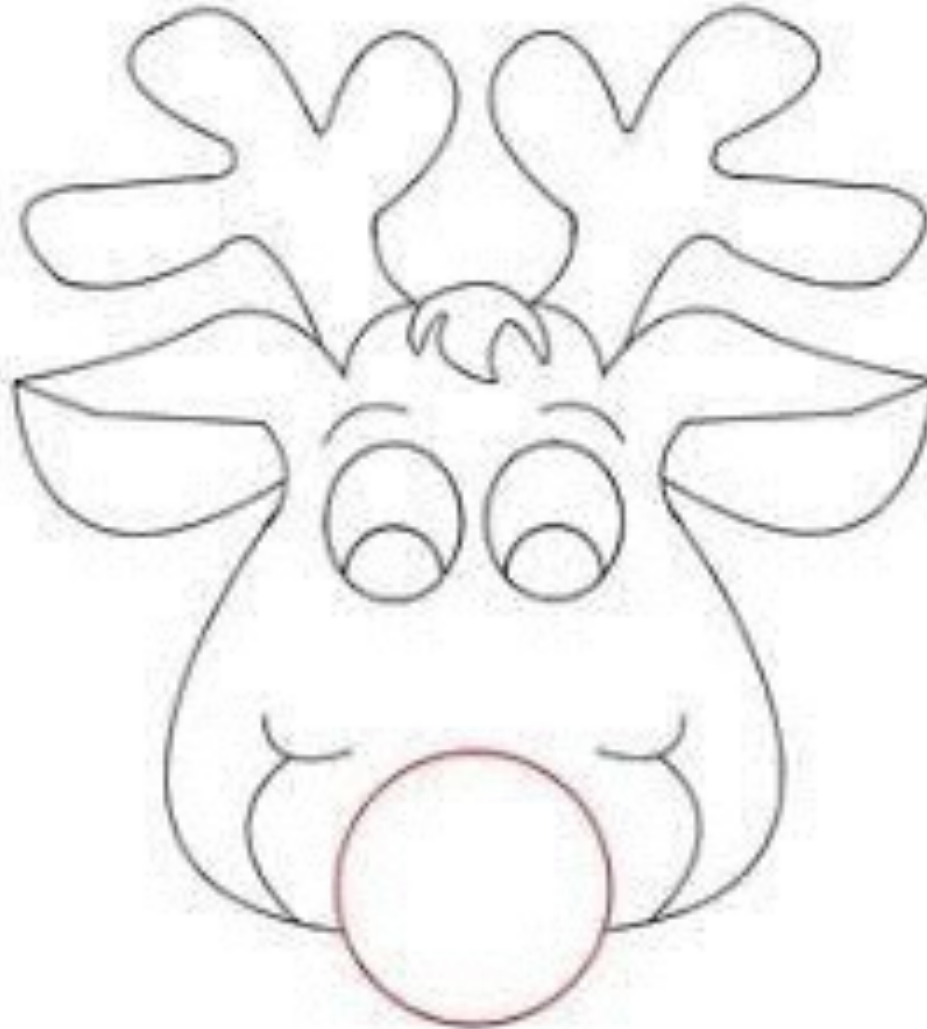
DO _ NER

DANC _ R



Rudolph's Nose Game

Pin the nose on Rudolph! Put a red sticker on Rudolph's nose (KS1) – you could even try it blindfolded! Or use finger paint to colour in his nose (EYFS)



Elf Name

In the show you'll meet Santa's Elves, Charlie and Kara.

What would your Elf Name be?

Take the initial of your first and last name to find out!

Write this on your letter to Santa!



	FIRST NAME	SURNAME
A	Apple	All-Star
B	Buster	Bright-Buttons
C	Candy	Cuddle-Monster
D	Dazzle	Daydream
E	Elfie	Egg-Nog
F	Fizzy	Frosty-Feet
G	Giggle	Glitter-Pants
H	Honey	Holly-Berry
I	Iggy	Icicle
J	Jingle	Jelly-Bottom
K	Kringle	Kisses
L	Lucky	Lemon-Cake
M	Marshmallow	McMittens
N	Nutcracker	Nice-List
O	Oodles	O'Holiday
P	Peppermint	Pinetree
Q	Queenie	Quirky-Pie
R	Rainbow	Razzle-Dazzle
S	Snowball	Sparkledust
T	Toffee	TreaclePot
U	Ultra-Violet	Unicorn
V	Volleyball	Vanilla-Cookies
W	Winnie	Waffles
X	Xmas	X-Cellent
Y	Yo-Yo	Yellow-Star
Z	Zippy	Zoom-Zoom

The Twelve Days of Christmas

What are the Twelve Days of Christmas?

Traditionally, these are the 12 days starting on 25th December - Christmas day (the day Jesus was born) until the 6th January when the 3 Wise Men arrived to give Jesus 3 gifts.

Can you name these 3 gifts?

- **Sit in a circle – on 5 Gold Rings everyone has to swap places with the person to their right (KS1) or clap your hands (EYFS)**
- **In small groups, each pick a character from the song and perform a mime for the others to guess which character you are**
- **Draw your favourite character – write this on your letter to Santa!**



ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS,

MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME:

Day 1: A Partridge in a Pear Tree

Day 2: Two Turtle Doves

Day 3: Three French Hens

Day 4: Four Calling Birds

Day 5: Five Gold Rings

Day 6: Six Geese a-Laying

Day 7: Seven Swans a-Swimming

Day 8: Eight Maids a-Milking

Day 9: Nine Ladies Dancing

Day 10: Ten Lords a-Leaping

Day 11: Eleven Pipers Piping

Day 12: Twelve Drummers Drumming



Letter to Santa

You could decorate your letter with stickers, glitter and drawings!

Bring it along to give to Santa after the show!



Dear Santa,

My name is _____ and I am _____ years old.

My Elf Name is:

My Favourite Character from the 12 Days of Christmas is:

This Christmas I would like
1 present for me:

1 present for a child in another country with less toys than me:

Thank you Santa!

Merry Christmas!

Lots of Love from,

Santa Soundscape

Create a Winter soundscape using tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Let your imagination run away to add to the story below and to choose your instruments!

It's a cold winter's night

You can hear the Wind whistling (you could use wind chimes or create the sound with your mouth)

The Stars are twinkling (you could use a xylophone)

The Snow is falling (you could use a shaker)

You hear the Bells from Santa's Sleigh (you could use bells)

You hear the Reindeers' hooves (you could use claves, blocks or scrapers)

You hear the sound of Santa's footsteps as he shakes off the snow from his boots (stamp your feet)

You hear Santa "Ho, Ho, Ho!" (all join in with your loudest voice!)



Christmas Sing-Song

- ★ **How many Christmas songs can you name?** Sit in a circle. Go round the group and see how many Christmas songs you can name and then sing them as a group.
- ★ **Take the name Santa Claus for inspiration and tap out a rhythm on the Glockenspiel (dum-de-dum - san-ta-claus).** All repeat the rhythm by clapping or taking it in turns to play the instrument. Each child can create their own rhythm in turn for the class to copy.
- ★ **Play some festive music and sing and dance along!**



AND FINALLY...

We hope that our Teachers' Support Pack adds to the enjoyment of your pupils' experience of their visit to the production and that they continue to talk about the show long after the curtain has fallen.



PHA Pantomimes



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www.santaclausonstage.com



APPENDIX

The following pages are for **TEACHERS ONLY** and contain historical context about the 'real' Santa Claus. This is **NOT INTENDED TO BE SHARED WITH THE CHILDREN** as we wish to keep the magic of Santa and Christmas alive in their imaginations!



Shh...

Who was the real Santa Claus?

The familiar figure of Santa Claus that we know and love today is actually based on a real-life person called Nicholas.

The story of the real Santa Claus begins over 2,000 years ago in a small town called Myra in what is now modern-day Turkey.

Nicholas, or St Nicholas as we know him now, was born into a wealthy family but his parents died when he was very young.





Instead of keeping the family fortune for himself, Nicholas gave away his money to the poor and those in need.

Nicholas was made Bishop of Myra and became famous for his generosity, kindness and especially for his love of children. He was known to give secret presents to those less fortunate than himself and this is where the tradition of Santa Claus giving gifts to children at Christmas originated.

Bishop Nicholas was made a Saint for his kind acts and is the Patron Saint of Children.

Santa Claus Throughout the Ages

In England during the reign of Henry VIII, we came to know St Nicholas as Father Christmas. He was known to bring peace, joy and good cheer and wore green or scarlet robes lined with fur.

Christmas became very popular in Victorian England and many believe that the character of The Ghost of Christmas Present in Charles Dickens' festive novel *A Christmas Carol* is based on Father Christmas.

