

Happy Christmas!



Christmas tree



Christmas card



cracker



presents



decorations



Father Christmas



snowman



stocking



turkey



Happy Christmas!



The Story of Christmas

The main religion in many English-speaking countries is Christianity. Christmas is an important day in the Christian calendar as it celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. The Christmas story tells of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem. They can't find an inn to stay at because they are all full. Finally, a kind shepherd lets them sleep in his barn with his farm animals. Here, Mary has the baby Jesus. When Jesus is born, a bright star shines above the barn and 3 wise men come to visit this special baby. They bring him presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In schools in English-speaking countries, children often perform a play to remember this story. It is called a 'nativity play'.

Christmas Day

Today, Christmas is celebrated with lots of different traditions in English-speaking countries. Father Christmas, sometimes called Santa Claus, is the most famous. On 24 December, Christmas Eve, he leaves his workshop in the North Pole and gives presents to all the good children of the world. He travels in a sleigh which is pulled by eight reindeer. Before children go to sleep, they leave a stocking at the end of their beds or in the living room hoping that it will be filled with presents in the morning. Some children even leave Father Christmas a biscuit and a glass of milk!

On Christmas Day, 25 December, children in many countries around the world wake up and run to see their presents. Some may be in their stockings and some may be under the Christmas tree. The tree has lots of decorations and lights on it. It usually has a star on top.

After the family is awake and the presents have been opened, children play with their toys and mothers and fathers start to make Christmas dinner. In the United Kingdom and North America, families usually eat turkey with stuffing, roast potatoes, brussel sprouts and carrots. In New Zealand and Australia, people usually eat lamb or have a barbeque as it is summer in December there. But everyone has Christmas crackers, which they pull before they eat their dinner. There is usually a little toy inside and a paper hat. When you are wearing the hat, it means you are ready to eat.

Make an Advent Wreath

You need: A cardboard ring and a copy of the *Advent Wreath* sheet for each child, scissors, colouring pens, glue



At Christmas time, many people hang a wreath on the front door to decorate their house. Tell the children they are going to make an Advent Wreath. This will help them count down the days to Christmas when Father Christmas will come and bring presents. Begin this activity on 1 December.

- Hand out the *Advent Wreath* sheets. Ask the children to colour the bow red and all of the holly leaves in dark or light green.
- Give each child a cardboard ring which will become the base of the wreath. Tell the children to find leaf number '1'.
- Ask them to cut it out and glue it onto the cardboard wreath. They can do this every day in class until the holidays. Then they can take their craft home and continue this project at home until 24 December.
- When the children have glued all 24 leaves around the cardboard wreath, they can cut out the red bow and glue it to the top of the wreath. Then they can hang it on their door on Christmas Eve.

Let's Sing!

You need: one copy of the *Let's Sing!* sheet for each child, colouring pens

This is a popular Christmas song that we sing at Christmas time.

- Hand out the *Let's Sing!* sheets and ask the children to colour the pictures in.
- Check the words of the song with the children and make up simple actions that go with the words.
- Then, as you sing as a class, do the actions together. It will make it enjoyable and memorable!



Make a Christmas Card

You need: One copy of the *Christmas Card* sheet for each child, scissors, colouring pens

At Christmas, people send cards to their friends and family to wish them a 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'. Tell the children they are going to make Christmas cards for their classmates.

- Hand out the *Christmas Card* sheets. Tell the children to colour in the snowman card. When they have finished, they should cut it out and fold it to form a card.
- Write all the children's names on separate pieces of paper and hand out a different name to each child in the class. This is the child who they will be writing to.
- On the inside of the card they can write:

	Dear <i>child's name</i> , Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! From, <i>their name</i> .
--	---

- Tell the children to walk around the classroom and give their Christmas cards to their classmates and say, *Merry Christmas!*

Pin the Nose on Rudolph

You need: one copy of the *Pin the Nose on Rudolph* sheet enlarged onto A3 paper per group of 4 children, scissors, colouring pens

This is based on a popular children's birthday party game and is a lot of fun! You could listen to the *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* song with the class before this game.

- Divide the class into groups of 4. Hand out one large copy of the picture of Rudolph and his nose to each group.
- Ask the groups to colour Rudolph and his nose in and then cut them both out.
- Stick the Rudolph pictures on the wall and ask each group to line up in front of their Rudolph.
- Blindfold the child at the front of the line, or simply tell them to close their eyes, and give them Rudolph's nose. They must walk forward and place the nose on Rudolph where they think it should be. *Take off the blindfold/open your eyes!*
- Write the name of the child in the place where they placed the nose. When everyone has had a go, the child whose name is closest to the correct position is the winner.

Half a Crossword

You need: Copies of *Crossword A* for half the class and *Crossword B* for the other half

You can do this activity when the children are familiar with the poster.

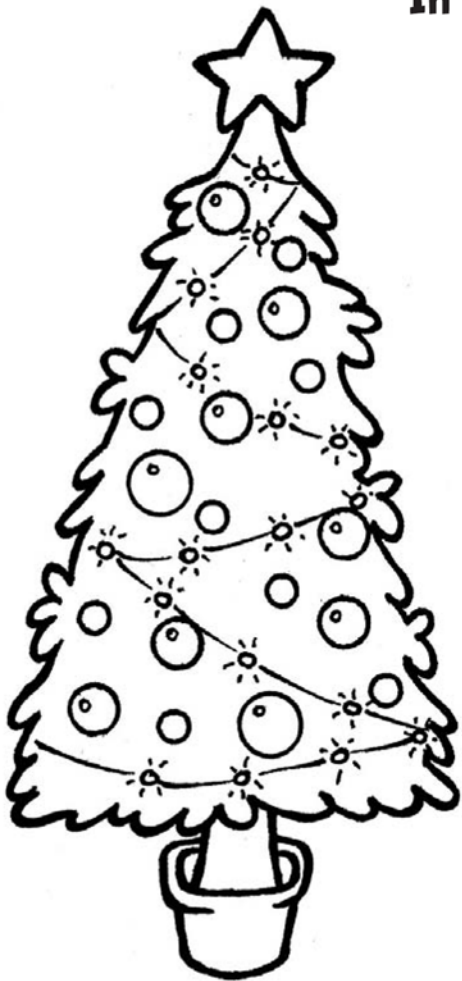
- Pre-teach *sleigh* and *reindeer*, if necessary.
- Divide the class in half and give children on the left *Crossword A*, and children on the right *Crossword B*. Tell the children to talk to the other children in their group and write the word next to each picture on their sheet. This is to check that they know the vocabulary.
- Now, match up the children in pairs, Student A and Student B: Make sure they do not show each other their crosswords. They can then ask each other questions to complete their crosswords. The children should answer with a definition, for example:
A: *What's 1 down?*
B: *It's green, you have it in your house at Christmas, and it has lots of decorations and lights on it.*
A: *A Christmas tree!*
They can then write the word in the boxes marked 1 down.
- Next, Student B takes their turn asking, *What's 2 down?* Continue until all of the vocabulary has been exchanged.

Let's Sing!



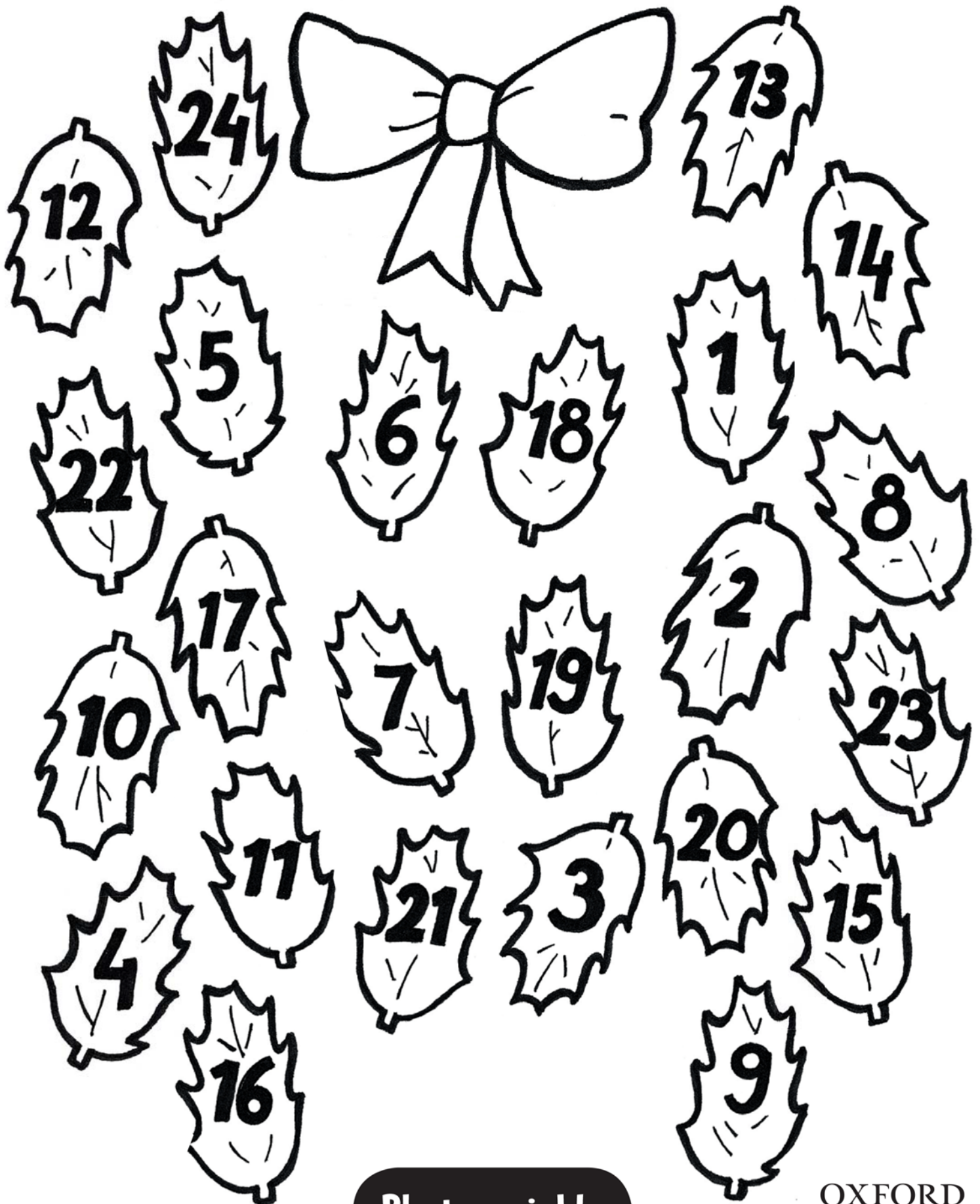
Jingle Bells

**Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey!**



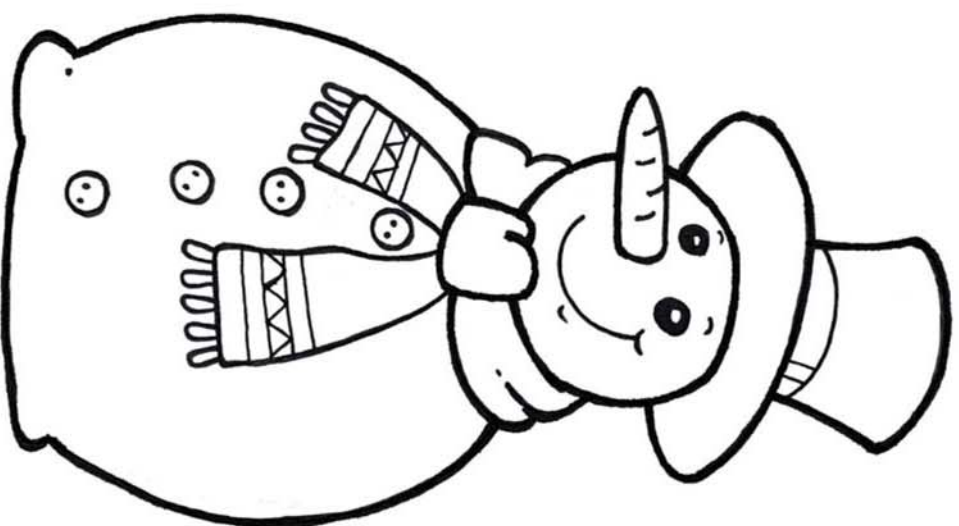
**Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.**

Advent Wreath



Photocopiable

Christmas Card



Half a Crossword

Half a Crossword **A**



		1				2	s								
3	c						t	4							
	a						a								
5	r	e	i	n	d	e	e	r							
	d														
				6	t	u	r	k	e	y					
7													8		
														s	
														n	
11														o	
														w	
														m	
12	f	a	t	h	e	r	c	h	r	i	s	t	m	a	s
														n	

Half a Crossword **B**



		1	c			2									
3			h					4	c						
			r						r						
5			i						a						
			s						c						
					6	t									
						m									
7	c					a					8	p	r	e	s
	a					s						e	n	t	
10						s									
						l									
						e									
11	k					t									
	d	e	c	o	r	a	t	i	o	n					
12						e									
						e									

Pin the Nose on Rudolph

