



## CHRISTMAS TIME

### Lesson Ideas

Below you will find a selection of Christmas-themed, curriculum-linked lesson ideas with accompanying activity sheets written for lower primary students.

### Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will recognise the traditions of Christmas and acknowledge how these may be different for each family.
- Students will reflect on the Christmas celebrations and traditions they have shared with their family and friends.

### English

- As a class, discuss the different types of gifts that can be given at Christmas. Ask students to think about gifts that do not cost money. Students to make a book of Christmas gift vouchers to give to a friend or family member. These could be for things such as 'Valid for one tidying of my room'.
- Students to listen to the traditional version of *The twelve days of Christmas*. Identify all the presents given in the song and then, in pairs, have students write a new version.
- Students to read or listen to different stories about Christmas and identify similarities between the texts as well as similarities between the texts and their own lives. Try to include stories from various cultures/places. There is a fun short story in the Extra resources section (of the For Teachers for students website).
- Students to bring in a favourite Christmas present and share with the class what makes it so special.
- Students to write a poem about Christmas using one of the '**Acrostic poem**' activity sheets.
- As a class, brainstorm a whole lot of Christmas words. Students to then create their own Christmas-themed word search and give it to a friend to complete. Students can use the '**Word search template**' activity sheet to create their word search.
- Students to use one of the '**Write to Santa**' letter templates to write a letter to Santa.



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### Mathematics

- Students to use supermarket catalogues to plan a Christmas meal within a set budget. Cut out the food pictures and add up the total cost of items to see if the meal is within budget.
- Students to survey their classmates about a present they want for Christmas this year and create a simple bar graph to show the results. What is the most popular present? What is the least popular?
- Students to use their number skills to reveal the picture on the '**Christmas maths**' activity sheet.
- Students to use online shopping websites (you may wish to select a few that are appropriate) and select five gifts that they would like for Christmas. Students to then place these in order from lowest to highest cost.

### Science

- Students to brainstorm the most popular moveable toys this Christmas (such as remote controlled vehicles, pull along toys, toy trucks, sports equipment etc.). Discuss how these toys move considering force, gravity etc.

### Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography)

- Students to bring in items from their parents (such as photographs, ornaments, presents etc.) that represent their past Christmases. Students to use these artefacts to compare older presents and traditions with current presents and traditions.
- Students to interview an elderly relative or friend to discover how Christmas has changed (if at all) over the years. Report findings to the class.
- Students to choose one country from around the world and research its Christmas customs, then compile a report with interesting facts included.
- Many families gather together in a special place for Christmas. Students to discuss where they spend time at Christmas and why this place is special for them.
- Students to see how much they know about Australian geography by completing the '**Travelling Santa**' activity sheet.



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### The Arts (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Art)

- Students to role-play their favourite Christmas story.
- Students to use recycled materials to make Christmas cards for their friends and family.
- Students to make a wreath using paper plates or sustainable materials of their choice.
- Students to listen to Christmas carols and create their own actions or dance steps to go with the song. Students can perform these to the class.
- Students to use cardboard tubes and crepe paper to make their own Christmas crackers.
- Students to select one of the following templates for a simple Christmas craft item
  - **'Reindeer mask'** template
  - **'Make an angel'** template
  - **'Make a finger puppet'** template

### Technologies (Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies)

- Students to research the top ten most popular Christmas toys (perhaps from a list generated in a class survey). Make a list of materials used in each toy and their key properties.
- Students to design a 'Super Sleigh' for Santa. They should label the parts and write a description of its features and how it works.

### Health and Physical Education

- Students to select common pieces of sporting equipment (e.g. cones, balls, hoops, small bean bags etc.) and devise a Christmas-themed game to teach to other groups.
- Students to make a list of foods that are commonly eaten at Christmas and then classify them as 'everyday', 'sometimes' or 'occasional' options.