



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Lesson Ideas

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

Broad learning outcomes

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

- Students will recognise that Christmas is celebrated in different ways around the world.
- Students will reflect on the Christmas celebrations and traditions they have shared with their family and friends.
- Students will design and construct their own Christmas decorations and cards for friends and family.

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 write their own version of 'The twelve days of Christmas'. It should follow the same rhythm as the original carol.
- Students to create a picture book about their ultimate Christmas and read it to a younger student.
- Students to bring in a favourite Christmas present and share with the class what makes it so special.
- Students to write a limerick describing Christmas at their house.
- Students to create their own Christmas-themed find-a-word and give it to a friend to complete.
- Students to write a reflection titled, 'What Christmas means to me'.
- Students to use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast Christmas in summer and winter.



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- Students to complete the **‘Christmas Around the World Crossword’** activity sheet.
- Students to read the short story titled *A ‘Novel’ Christmas Eve* (available in the ‘Themed Curriculum Support Resources’ section of the FTfs website) then complete one, or all of the following activities:
 - Students to complete the **‘A ‘Novel’ Christmas Eve – Comprehension Questions’** activity sheet.
 - Students to research science fiction ‘teleporters’ or ‘teleportation machines’ and use their imaginations to design one and write a short description of it.
 - Students to underline any unfamiliar words in the story then use a dictionary to find the definitions.
 - Students to write a short story about the problem with Santa’s sleigh.
 - Students to identify all the adjectives in the story.

Mathematics

- Students to plan their ultimate Christmas meal and then use catalogues to calculate the price of the ingredients they need to create it.
- Students to survey their classmates, friends and family about what Christmas means to them and then present the results in graph format.
- Students to make their own Advent calendar.
- Students to practice plotting coordinates by completing the **‘Christmas Coordinates’** activity sheet.
- Students to create their own Christmas-themed board game. They may wish to use the **‘Create your own board game’** template provided with the student activity sheets.

Science

- Students to complete the **‘Tis the Season’** activity sheet to investigate which cities celebrate Christmas in summer and which cities celebrate in winter.
- Solar-powered lights are an increasingly popular choice for outdoor decorations at Christmas time. Students to research how these solar-powered lights operate and list the benefits of using them.
- Students to research the top ten most popular Christmas toys. Make a list of materials used in each toy and their properties.



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Humanities and Social Sciences

History

- Students to create a timeline of the Christmases they have enjoyed, including some of the things they can remember about each Christmas. Ask family members to help with the years before they can remember. Include photographs if possible.
- Students to imagine they are early Australian settlers, just arrived from England. Write a letter home describing your first Australian summer Christmas.
- 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.

Geography

- Students to choose one country and research its Christmas customs then compile a report, including interesting facts.
- Students to use a world map to mark the countries mentioned in the 'Christmas Around the World' facts for students (available in the 'Themed Curriculum Support Resources' section of the FTfs website). Discuss how Christmas is celebrated in each of these countries.
- 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.

Economics and Business

- Students to consider how businesses use advertising, price and peer pressure to influence people to purchase particular goods and services at Christmas time.
- Students to consider the difference between needs and wants. What affect do special events and times of the year have on our perceptions of these?

The Arts

- Students to use the '**Make a Christmas Tree**' template to make and then decorate their own Christmas tree.
- Students to role-play their favourite Christmas story.
- Students to use recycled materials to make Christmas cards for their friends and family.



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- Students to make a wreath using natural materials of their choice.
- Students to listen to some Christmas carols and create their own actions to go with the song. Students can perform these to the class.
- In Newfoundland, it was a Christmas tradition to dress up in colourful masks and costumes and visit houses to celebrate. This tradition was called ‘mumming’. Students to use the **‘Mumming Masks’** template to make their own mask.
- In Mexico, piñatas are often used to celebrate Christmas. They are filled with fruit, lollies or flour. Students to use the **‘Christmas Piñata’** template to make their own ‘star-style’ decorative piñata (their piñata will only be for decoration and will be filled with tissue).
- Students to use cardboard tubes and crepe paper to make their own Christmas crackers.

Technologies

- Students to design and make a toy to give to a young person or a charity.
- Students to discuss the pros and cons of using real and plastic Christmas trees.
- Students to design and make ‘Santa’s super sleigh’.
- Students to imagine and then design a special machine to assist Santa with his deliveries.

Health and Physical Education

- Students to select some common pieces of sporting equipment (cones, balls, hoops, small bean bags etc.) and devise a Christmas-themed game, then teach the game to another group.
- Students to compile a healthy Christmas lunch or dinner menu.
- The African-American community in the United States has a Christmas tradition called ‘Kwanzaa’. It honours the culture and traditions of people of African origin. It begins on December 26 and finishes on January 1. It involves lighting candles which represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and earth. Students to use the **‘Kwanzaa Candles’** template to make their own candles and holder. Add a candle each day and, as a class discuss the principle it represents.



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Languages

- Students to write a letter to an imaginary child in another country describing what Christmas is like in Australia.
- Students to learn part, or all, of a well-known Christmas carol in another language.
- Students to research the many ways that 'Merry Christmas' is said around the world.