

Christmas

BUZZWORD

Article

Who is Santa Claus?

by Olivia (3D)

Folklore has it that every evening on December 24, a mysterious person flies in the sky on a sleigh pulled by nine reindeers. He climbs down the chimney and enters the house through the fireplace to secretly put gifts in the home. On Christmas day, children usually find presents in the stockings hung on the fireplace, at the foot of the bed, or under the Christmas tree by the fireplace.

Although no child has ever seen or met the mysterious man, people pretend and dress up to be him to give gifts to children at Christmas. People know him as a gleeful elderly who wears a red hat, a big white beard, a red cotton-padded coat, black boots, and carrying a big red bag full of gifts. Some people believe Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century saint from Greece, was the character behind this mysterious man. The English folklore calls him Father Christmas and the Dutch Sinterklaas. However, the name 'Santa Claus' became more popular in the United States and Canada due to a 19th-century poem called A Visit from St. Nicholas.

During the year, Santa Claus is busy making gifts and toys and, of course, supervising children's behaviour. He is said to make the toys with the help of Christmas Elves, who work tirelessly in his workshop in the North pole. The toys are traditionally hand made by the elves. Santa comes to deliver his toys on Christmas Eve. Children leave glasses of milk and plates of cookies for him to eat. In Britain and Australia, children leave sherry or beer and mince pies instead in the kitchen. Parents also tell their children to put out a carrot for Santa's reindeer. The thing that matters the most to children is that if they are not good all year round, they will receive a lump of coal in their stockings instead of gifts from Santa Claus!

So, are you getting Christmas gifts or a lump of coal this Christmas?

Ho, ho, ho!

**WHAT'S
INSIDE THIS
ISSUE?**

Page 2:
A Christmas Diary entry
Acrostic poem: Christmas
Presents

Page 3:
Crossword Puzzle
Recipe: How to Make a
Gingerbread house

Page 4:
Story: Bad dreams will
never stop
Movie Review: Home Alone

Page 5:
Photo Story: Christmas Fun
at school

My Journal

by Kenson (3D)

25 December 2020

Tuesday

Sunny day

This Christmas, I am spending the holidays with my family in Finland. We checked into a hotel last night.

I am excited about the trip because today was an enjoyable day. In the morning, I woke up in my hotel room. I opened the window, and I was surprised to see the snow glistening in the sun. The view was lovely. I was ready to go outside and play with my sisters. We made a snow angel and had a snowball fight. I felt elated.

After spending time together, my family and I went to Santa Claus Village. There were fewer people because we went there in the afternoon. However, it was lively and Christmassy, with a large tree in the middle of the village and lots of Christmas decorations on the village houses. We took photos with Santa Claus. Santa Claus was very nice to me, and he gave us gifts.

Time flew by, and it was nighttime already. I went to a restaurant with my family. We ordered a lot of food such as turkey, gingerbread and sausages. After dinner, we went to the Christmas Market nearby and bought a candlestick.

We went back to the hotel as we were tired. I felt satisfied today. I hope tomorrow will also be a lovely day.

Acrostic Poem

Christmas Presents

by Lucas and Sunny (2D)

Christmas is the best time of the year
Houses and trees are decorated with pretty Christmas lights and wreaths
Restaurants serve turkey and Christmas puddings
I hear carolers singing carols in the churches
Santa brings presents for children around the world
Tinsel glitters and glows on trees
Malls sell a lot of Christmas gifts to people
All the parents want to buy Christmas snacks because children like eating chocolates
Snowflakes float all around me. What a lovely time!

Presents are put under the Christmas tree
Red and green ribbons, purple and gold bows look so pretty
Every child wishes to get what they want
Santa gives presents to kids who are nice
Everyone loves opening presents but
Naughty children do not get a Christmas gift
Toys, clothes, games, books, so many things inside
Surprise!



Christmas Crossword puzzle

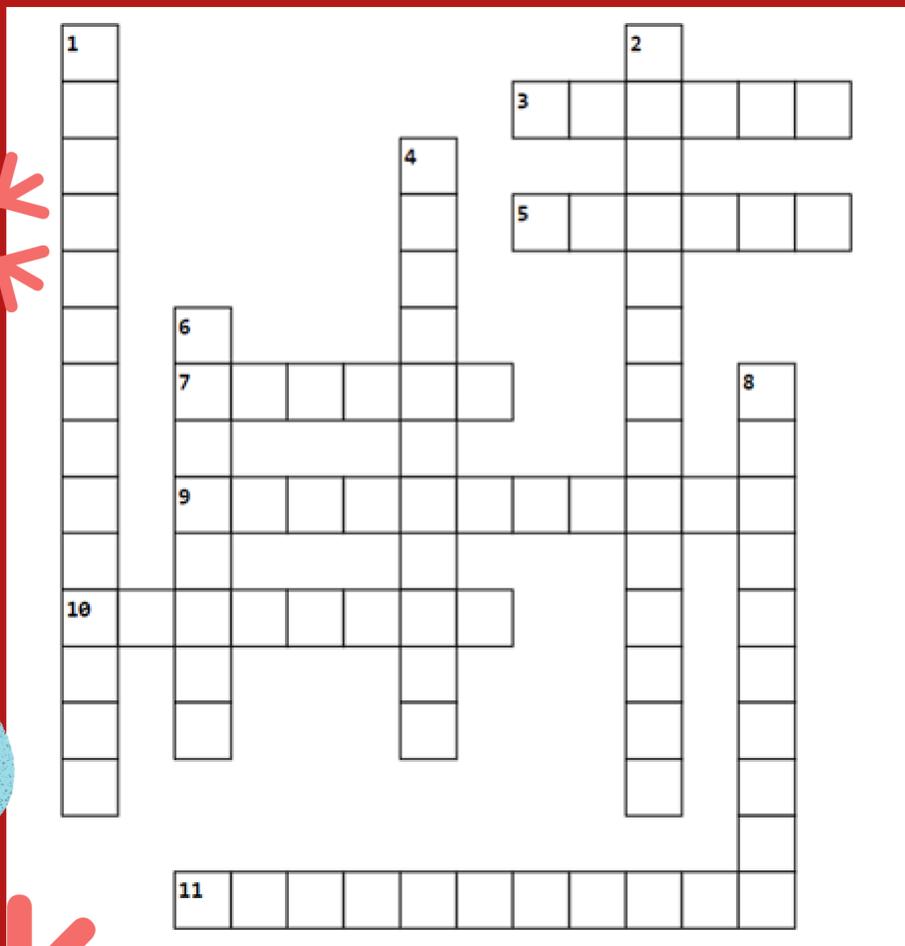
by Sweety (3D)

Across

3. a circular band of flowers and leaves put on doors
5. happy religious Christmas songs
7. traditional Christmas dinner roast
9. a special joyous social event
10. animals that pull Santa's sleigh
11. Christmas bells

Down

1. evergreen trees decorated at Christmas with ornaments and lights
2. wishes given on Christmas for good tidings
4. a type of cake made with ginger and molasses
6. an empty sock-shaped bag that is hung on the fireplace on Christmas Eve
8. a person who is supposed to bring gifts to children on Christmas Eve



How to make a Gingerbread house

by Priya (3A)

Steps



1 Let's get started! First, mix the dry ingredients. In a big bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder, ginger, cinnamon, allspice and salt all together and put it aside.

2. Then, use a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and beat butter and brown sugar on light speed until it is well blended.

3. After that, crack the eggs. Mix them with molasses and water until it is well combined. Put the flour mixture into the molasses until it is well blended to form a soft dough.

4. Turn the dough out into a floured work surface and knead it with your hands around six times until it is smooth. Divide the dough in half, and wrap each half in plastic wrap. Refrigerate the dough overnight.

5. Before making a gingerbread house, prepare cardboard cuttings to create the shape of the house. The next day, use a rolling pin to roll out the dough to 1/4 inch. Then, cut out the house pattern through the dough. Next, bake the cookies in the oven at 350 F until golden brown.

6. For the royal icing, whisk the egg whites and two cups of powdered sugar together. Then add the remaining powdered sugar to the sugar and egg mixture to get stiff peaks. When it is ready, put it inside the pastry bag.

7. Now, stick the cookie squares together with some icing to make a house. Finally, decorate the cookie house with sprinkles, M&Ms or chocolates. You can do whatever you want. There are no rules when it comes to decorating. The only rule is to have fun! I hope you enjoy my easy recipe!

Ingredients

Gingerbread House Dough

- 6 cups (828g) all-purpose flour, plus more for rolling the dough
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- four teaspoons of ground ginger
- four teaspoons of ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves or allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup (170g) butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups (284g) packed light brown sugar
- two large eggs
- 1 cup dark molasses
- one tablespoon of water

Royal Icing

- two large egg whites
- 2 2/3 cups powdered sugar, divided



Recipe

by Wilson (3D)

Christmas day had been joyful and relaxing, but this is happening now.

I have to move!

I tell myself, but the words have no meaning. Like a block of lead, my body feels heavy and stuck.

Thud!

Is there someone in my room? Is it getting close? I startle myself with the thoughts as I open my eyes. From the corner of my eye, I see a shadow swiftly drifting past my door. That's when I see it. There is a present wrapped in paper lying on the floor. It is no bigger than a pencil case. I don't know what is inside this present. Is it a bad omen?

Relax!

I tell myself again, but instead, I begin to panic. Did someone touch my back? I sweat profusely at that thought as I force myself to look around.

I can't move! Ahhhh!

I scream, and everything goes black.

Squeak! Squeak!

I hear my bed groan with my bouncing. Can I move now? I am free! But what is happening? My heart hammers in my ears as I try to calm down again. I quickly spring away from my bed to escape.

Bedside lamp! Yes, I need to turn on the light!

I scramble to turn the light switch, but there is just darkness. I keep hitting the bedroom light switch. Nothing works! Just when I was about to give up, I saw the box on the floor again. Cautiously, I lift it in hand and open it.

Empty! Ahhhhhh!

Screams resound throughout the room.

Oh, no! Not again! Wake up! It is just a dream!

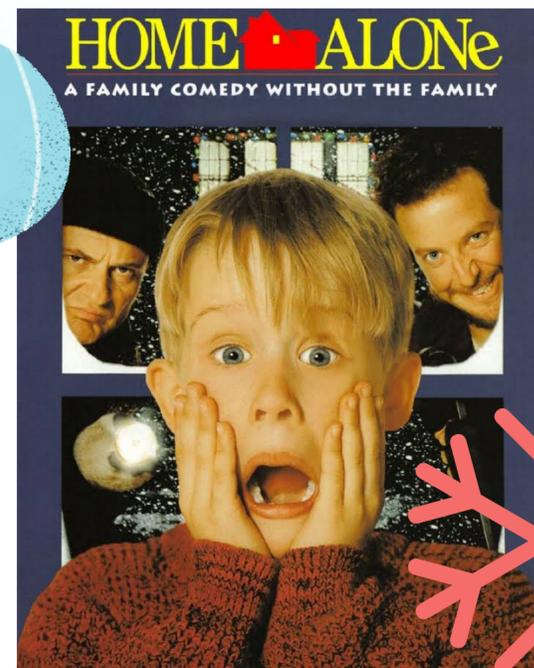
Perhaps not. Everything around me starts to collapse. Suddenly my room is filled with many Santa Claus and Christmas gifts. The joyful Christmas songs turn eerie, and they send chills down my spine. A menacing laugh keeps replaying in my mind.

Jerk!

I wake with a start. It feels like I déjà vu. Didn't I wake up some time ago? I don't know if this is real or still a nightmare. But one thing I know is this dream will never stop.

It's Christmas Movie time!

by Helen (3A)



Home Alone is a 1990 American comedy film directed by Chris Columbus and is written by John Hughes. It is the first film in the Home Alone franchise and stars Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern, John Heard and Catherine O'Hara. Culkin plays Kevin McCallister, an eight-year-old boy who defends his Chicago home from burglars after his family accidentally leaves him behind on their vacation to Paris.

The plot begins with the McAllister family preparing to travel, and Kevin quarrels with his siblings. He is punished and spends a night in the attic as punishment. The family oversleeps, and in their rush to get to the airport, they leave Kevin behind. After his family leaves, Kevin feels overjoyed at his freedom. Meanwhile, Harry and Marv, two burglars who plan to commit burglary at the McAllister house, are aware that Kevin is alone. They think it is easy to overpower a kid like Kevin. With clever tricks and presence of mind, Kevin not only saves his house from being burglarized but also catches the two thieves. In the end, he reunites with his whole family when they return to spend time together on Christmas.

Chris Columbus shot this film in Illinois from February to May 1990. It captures the atmosphere of Christmas beautifully. I would highly recommend Home Alone, especially if you are keen on watching comedy and action films. It will have you on the edge of your seat until the very end, and I am sure you will not regret watching it.

Christmas party!

Emily and Alvin (2B)

To spread the good cheer of the holiday season, our school organized three days of Christmas fun during English Week from 15th December to 17th December in the school library. There were four Christmas games for students to engage in the festive spirit and have a great time during lunch.



Students thoroughly enjoyed the party game called 'Listen for Merry Christmas'.



Throwing snowballs with hands covered in cups to represent Rudolph's hooves had students in splits!



S.6 students successfully planted the tallest marshmallow Christmas tree!



Students collected four cards of the same kind and shouted 'Merry Christmas to win the round!



English Ambassadors donned festive antlers to welcome students.



'Planting a marshmallow Christmas tree' chopsticks was challenging!



Students and teachers took photos with Santa Claus.



Students getting ready to throw snowballs.

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Watch out for another issue of BUZZWORD in February!