CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

PDF & DIGITAL FORMATS



11 ACTIVITIES

2 Peas and a Dog

Middle School Teaching Resources

RESOURCE INCLUDES

- ✓ 11 Literacy Activities
- ✓ Teacher Instructions
- Reading, Writing, Listening & Speaking Activities
- ✓ MP3 Audio Files
- ✓ Answer Keys
- ✓ Assessment Options
- ✓ Print & Digital Formats



Lesson Overview

- 1. Christmas Article
- 2. Christmas Tree Choices
- 3. Christmas Opinion Questions
- 4. Fishbowl Class Discussion & Opinion Writing Assignment
- 5. Christmas Foods Around the World
- 6. Christmas Creative Writing Assignment
- 7. Winter Word Detective, Word Search & Crossword Puzzle
- 8. Winter Word Call Game



LESSON 1

Christmas Non-Fiction Article

Lesson Overview: Students will read a non-religious article about Christmas.

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Data projector, computer, internet
- □ Video:

Tea

Bet You Didn't Know: Christmas | History (Preview this video as it may

LESSON PLANS

- Have students work independently or in pairs to answer the questions.
- 4. Discuss the answers as a class or collect the questions as an assessment.

ANSWER KEY

Note: Students may also come up with other pros and cons for each tree

Note: Students may also come up with other pros and constor each tree.				
Pros of Real Christmas Trees	Pros of Fake Christmas Trees			
 The smell makes your home smell like Christmas the entire holiday season. When you buy a tree from a Christmas tree farm, you are providing jobs to Christmas tree farmers. Most trees come from tree farms and are not cut down from natural 	 Artificial trees can be reused each year, which makes them cost—friendly. They also come in various sizes and colours. Putting up or taking down an artificial tree is very simple. Many artificial trees also come pre—lit, 			
• R	YS Fake Christmas Trees			
 Not reusable, so you must buy a new one each year. The sap can make your fingers sticky, making it difficult to decorate. Shedding tree needles and an improperly cared for tree can pose a fire risk. Lots of maintenance – picking up needles and watering the tree daily. If the tree farm has a pest problem, then the trees are sprayed with pesticides to deter the pests. These pesticides can be harmful to human health. 	 They are not biodegradable like real trees. Trees end up in landfills because they cannot be repurposed or recycled. Older artificial trees can also contain PVC and lead, which release toxic chemicals during production and can harm your health. Many artificial Christmas trees are crafted from PVC, a type of plastic considered among the less environmentally friendly options. PVC trees can release toxic fumes during a fire. 			

O http://www.2peasandadog.com



THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

When people think of Christmas, two images might come to mind: the religious Christmas symbolized by the nativity scene or the commercial Christmas symbolized by the beautifully decorated Christmas trees in shopping malls.

Christmas is celebrated in North America and other parts of the world. This holiday has two meanings:

- 1. For some people, Christmas is a deeply religious holiday marking the birthday of Jesus.
- 2. For others, Christmas is a time to spend wi family, eatin exchanging r

CHRISTMAS TREE CHOICES

Decorating a tree for Christmas is a special moment many share with their families. Some families choose

to go out and pick their tree, while others use the same artificial tree year after year.

The question that arises every Christmas season is which tree is better? There is no right or wrong answer. A real tree and an artificial

> purced locally. ons of a Real Christmas Tree

uying a tree each year can be expensive since they are not reusable. When trying to decorate a real tree, the sap can make your fingers sticky, making it difficult to decorate.

Real trees are also great for the

The production of artificial trees

trees generally have a lower

environmental impact during

involves manufacturing processes

that use energy and resources. Real

roduction, especially if they are

biodegradable, which means they can

be composted and turned into soil or

environment because they are

recycled into wood chips.

Shedding tree needles is not something most people enjoy about real Christmas trees. Both the tree and its needles can pose a fire hazard, but a real Christmas tree can also be a fire hazard if they are not cared for properly. Caring for a real tree means picking up needles and watering the tree daily.

If the tree farm has a pest problem. then the trees are sprayed with pesticides to deter the pests. These pesticides can be harmful to human

C http://www.2peasandadog.com

ARTICLES

The Cost of Christmas

In 2010, a survey found that Canadians planned to spend \$600 on Christmas gifts. In 2023, a survey found that Canadians planned to spend \$1,347 - that's an increase of more than 116 percent!2 With Thanksgiving and Halloween just having passed and Valentine's Day on the way, that is a lot of money to spend on one holiday!

1 https://www.cbc.ca/news2/paintofview/2010/12/christmas—shopping—ho 2 https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/canadians-are-planning-to-spend-less-this-l 3 https://vancouver.citynews.ca/2023/02/15/canadian-holiday-overspending-4 https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas

Having a real tree in your home is wonderful because of its fresh scent which makes your home smell like Christmas the entire holiday season. A tradition among many families is to visit a local Christmas tree farm to choose the perfect tree. The most popular tree is the Balsam Fir tree.

When you buy a tree from a Christmas tree farm, you are providing jobs to Christmas tree farmers. Most Christmas trees come from tree farms and are not cut down from natural forests.

Christmas tree farms have a cycle of planting and harvesting - when one tree is cut, another is planted.

CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS

After reading the article "The History of Christmas," answer the following questions in complete sentences.

What two images most symbolize Christmas in people's minds?

REAL OR FAKE CHRISTMAS TREES?

Prosof Prosof Real Christmas Trees Fake Christmas Trees

Ca POST-READING ACTIVITIES

spent on?

How

What

that

Which ancient civilizations did modern Christmas traditions come from?

O http://www.2peasandadog.com

© http://www.2peasandadog.com



HOLIDAY OPINION QUESTIONS

Instructions: On a separate sheet of paper or the template provided, answer each question below in dot jot form or complete sentences. Be sure to include details in your responses, as these opinions will be shared during a class discussion.







- What is the best type of snack to leave for Santa and his reindeer?
- 2. Is it ever acceptable to regift a present? Explain.

WRITING PROMPTS

- 7. Should it be mandatory to send holiday greeting cards to people during December? Explain.
- 8. Some stores start decorating for Christmas in October before Halloween and November 11^{th.}Some people feel that stores should wait until November 12th to put up their Christmas decorations. Do you agree or disagree?
- 9. Do you think people should take a break from technology during the holidays, or is it okay to stay connected? Why?
- 10. What is your favourite Christmas carol? Why is this song your favourite?

© http://www.2peasandadog.com

PARAGRAPH WRITING ASSESSMENT

O http://www.2p

Student Name:			
Class:	CREATIVE WRITING AS	SSESSM	IENT
Level 4	Criteria	Mark	
☐ Ideas are organized into a well—d with detailed explanations and tr	Writing Criteria	Worth 25 P	Points
☐ Spelling and grammar is correct.	☐ Writing flows	/10	
Level 3 ☐ Ideas are organized into paragra three reasons, concluding senten	☐ Writing uses the correct voice for the chosen role.	/10	
☐ There are a few spelling and gran mistakes do not detract from th	☐ Correct spelling and grammar	/5	
	ECCNAENIT	Worth 25 P	oints?
Level 2 ASS	ESSMENT	/10	
☐ Ideas ar ☐ Severals	PTIONS	/10	
Level 1	format.	/5	
☐ Ideas are not organized into property sentence, three reasons, conclude		Total Points	/50
Feedback:		Final Mark	%
	Feedback:		

C http://www.2peasandadog.com

ENGAGING MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS TREE CHOICES



Pros of Artificial Christmas Trees

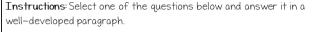
Unlike real trees, you can reuse your artificial tree for many years, which is cost-friendly. They also come in various sizes and colours, such as pink, purple,

Putting up instruction pre-lit. This time saver.

Artificial tr

CHRISTMAS FISHBOWL PARTICIPATION TRACKER

fingers wh Opting for polypropyle	Student Name	Question #1 - 10	Answer Quality
Cons of Ai Since artifi means tha the landfill			
Older artifi chemicals Christmas the less er during a fir			



HOLIDAY OPINION WRITING

- 1. What is the best type of snack to leave for Santa and his
- 2. Is it ever acceptable to regift a present? Explain.

CHRISTMAS FOOD AROUND THE WORLD



Country

Instructions: As you watch the video, list the different foods eaten at Christmas time in each

Christmas Food Traditions

9. D	United Kingdom	
10. W	Iceland	
-	France	
-	Germany	
- - -	Japan • http://www.2peasandadog.com	

THINKING QUESTION

		LAPCCIUIIONS	
Assessment	Below	Meets Expectations	Above

What are some alternatives people could use in place of Christmas trees? Explain your thinking.

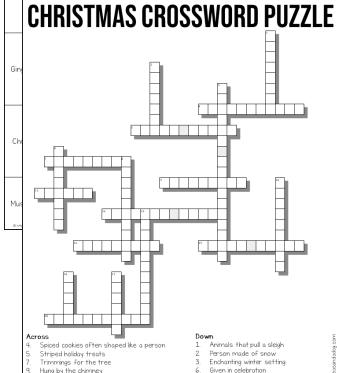
WORD DETECTIVE



Word	Unscrambled Word
esowfnlaks	
tansa culsa	
dnreiere	
wnsomna	
ilhseg	
ftgis	
eorcdtinaso	
gtsonikcs	
smolietet	
andcy naces	
eegdbignrar	
rwaeth	
twnier rledanodwn	
iapfrelec	
ornnsmeat	
srpenets	
yalhoid eecrh	
etistvifies	

CHRISTMAS CREATIVE WRITING

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Elf	Santa	Letter of Resignation	You are tired of working hard every year to get the toys made for Christmas Eve, and then Santa gets all the credit. As of today, you are done! Santa can find a new employee. Write a one to two-page resignation letter to Santa outlining the reasons you are quitting your job.
			Every year, people eat turkey for the holiday season. This



- Hung by the chimney
- Santa's vehicle
- Seasonal happiness Jolly figure in a red suit
- Traditional Christmas plant
- Warm spot for gatherings
- Snow crystals with unique shapes 13. Used to make a home feel festive
 - Another word for presents
 - 17. Circular decorative piece with foliage

© http://www.2peasandadog.com

LESSON FORMATS





✓ Individual & Whole Unit





✓ Google Slides

RESOURCE CAN BE USED IN-PERSON OR ONLINE